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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

Fitial counsel: Inos deserves no criticism

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Inos

Attorney Stephen J. Nutting, counsel for former governor Benigno R. Fitial, said yesterday that Gov. Eloy S. Inos deserves no criticism in deciding to commute the one-year prison term for Fitial.

Nutting said it was obvious that Inos spent a great deal of time in considering and detailing the numerous factors which supported his decision.

"Certainly, the decision to commute the prison term that was imposed was a great relief to Mr. Fitial and his family and his numerous supporters," said the lawyer in response to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for comment

See FITIAL on Page 4

HELP FOR ROTA

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Marianas Young Professionals donated to residents of Rota who were affected by Typhoon Dolphin last May. The group purchased food using the $1,000 that they were able to raise through their inaugural meeting in June.

See story on Page 4

Online petition to recall Inos will not continue… for now

By JOEL PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An online petition seeking the recall of Gov. Eloy S. Inos will no longer continue.

Hunter

According to citizen activist Glen Hunter, he drafted "the draft petition to recall Inos if he moved forward with a full pardon. He did not and opted for a commutation."

"While I am not at all happy about the removal of the jail time, I am very glad that a full pardon was not granted. I do not intend on finalizing the recall petition. Will someone else?

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AS NAVY EYES 3-FOLD INCREASE IN FDM BOMBING:

EPA wants Navy commitment to dive surveys on heath of marine life

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wants the U.S. Navy to commit to annual dive surveys on the heath of marine life around Farallon De Medinilla, as the Navy eyes a three-fold increase to explosive ordnance used on the island, a routine bombing area leased to the U.S. military.

EPA also wants the Navy to commit to an evaluation of how munitions are consumed and transported by affected fish around the island, since humans can be exposed to these contaminants through consumption.

The agency's requests are supported in their comments on the final draft environmental impact statement for the Mari-

See EPA on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Greeks awoke Monday to the stark reality of the country's accelerating crisis, hours after they voted resoundingly to reject more austerity measures in exchange for another bailout.

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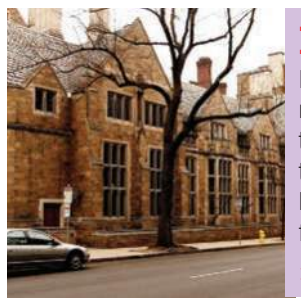

NATION

Institutions from Alaska to Connecticut evaluating whether they should continue enshrining the names of historical figures linked to slavery and the Confederacy.

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WORLD

Pope Francis stressed the need to protect the poor and the environment from exploitation and to foster dialogue among all sectors of society.

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Local

PCF-Marianas Chapter holds third leadership series

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Pacific Century Fellows-Marianas Chapter pose with Guam Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio and other resource speakers at their third leadership series entitled "Guam Retreat" held in Fiesta Resort Guam last June 24-25.

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2015 class of the Marianas Chapter of Pacific Century Fellows held their third leadership series in Fiesta Resort Guam last June 24 and 25.

In the "Guam Retreat," members of the fellowship program had a chance to speak with officials who are counterparts of some agencies on Saipan.

According to PCF-Marianas Chapter vice chair Alex Sablan, the reason why they chose the June resource speakers is because the CNMI is presently having the same issues that Guam also faced.

Among the resource speakers was Guam's Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio who spoke about the then military proposal on their island and how they handled it.

Another speaker was John Benavente who is the Guam Power Authority's interim general manager. Benavente discussed the path which Guam took with regards to its utilities.

Mark Baldyga, chairman of the board of Guam Visitors Bureau, spoke about Guam's 2020 Tourism Plan and laid out the ways on how their government is planning to achieve the two million tourists that they are targeting.

Guam's initiative to seek investors who will build high-end, quality hotels was also discussed.

Guam Memorial Hospital Authority's chief operating executive and administrator Lewis Theodore was also among the resource speakers and talked of Guam's recent issues in their hospital.

Speaker Judith Won Pat and members of the 33rd Guam Legislature were also part of the program.

During the second day of the retreat, the group made a tour of the Joint Region Marianas Headquarters, Naval Base Guam, Naval Hospital, as well as the Andersen Air Force Base.

Tourism and culture

According to Sablan, the group will be discussing tourism and culture for the fourth series to be held this month. Government and education were tackled during the earlier series.

Through this, the fellows will have a chance to meet and discuss with the government about the effects of the casino industry as well as the pros and cons of the military to the CNMI's tourism.

Also lined up for the fellows in the nine-month program is a retreat to Hawaii where they will meet with the PCF there. In December, they will be organizing an outreach on the cause of their choice before their graduation in January.

Currently, PCF-Marianas Chapter has 12 fellows which is a mix of individuals involved in the private and public sector.

The PCF-Marianas Chapter is a leadership development program created by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation through Tan Holdings with Jerry Tan as its chairman.

The fellowship program emulates the objectives of Hawaii's PCF program by joining hands with other businesses and organizations as sponsors to bring together the CNMI's most promising individuals from all walks of life, fields, and professions.

US govt assessing Blyth's extent of cooperation into casino investigation

The U.S. government needs additional time to assess the extent of the cooperation of former Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino casino manager Tim Blyth into the criminal investigation of the Tinian Dynasty's owner.

Assistant U.S. attorney Russell H. Lorfing and attorney Mark B. Hanson, counsel for Blyth, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday that such assessment of Blyth's cooperation will provide the parties a meaningful update to the court at the status conference.

Lorfing and Hanson agreed to request the court to continue to the week of July 20, 2015 the status conference in Blyth's case, currently scheduled for today, July 7.

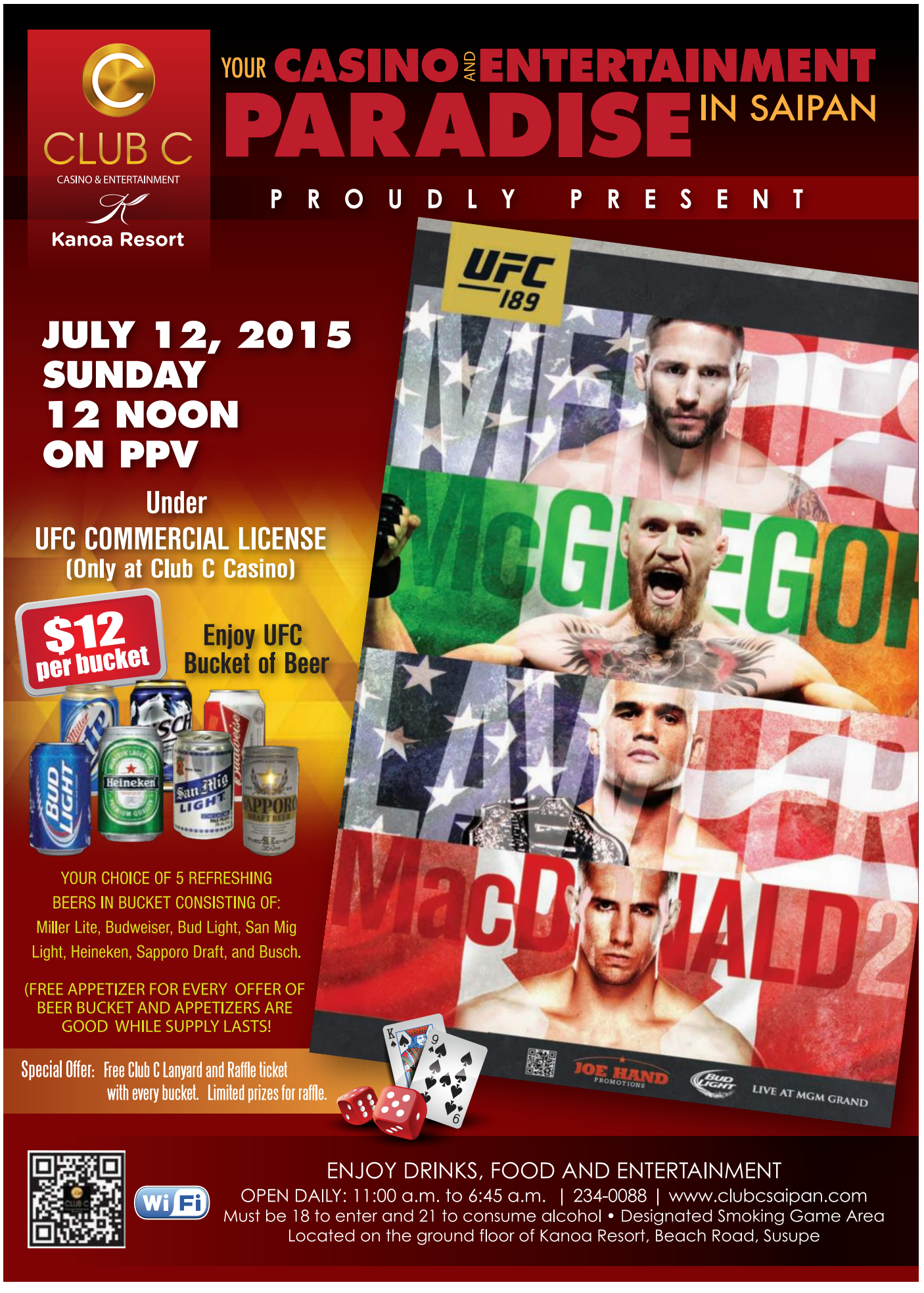
The parties disclosed that Blyth is continuing to cooperate with the U.S. government pursuant to the terms of their deferred prosecution agreement.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted yesterday the parties' request and set the status conference to July 24, 2015 at 11am.

Blyth and former Tinian Dynasty VIP services manager George Que were among those charged with engaging in a conspiracy to allow gamblers to conduct transactions involving more than $10,000 without filing the required paperwork with the U.S. government.

In February 2014, Blyth entered a deferred prosecution agreement with the U.S. government in exchange for the dismissal of the charges against him. The court approved the agreement.

In June 2014, Que also entered the same agreement with the U.S. government. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***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AS INOS TAKE 3-WEEK LEAVE

Torres asks departments to fast-track pending projects

BY JOEL PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In a meeting yesterday morning, acting governor Ralph DLG. Torres has asked department heads to "fast-track" pending projects as Gov. Eloy S. Inos takes a three-week vacation in Seattle.

Torres will be the acting governor in Inos' absence, Press Secretary Ivan Blanco said.

Blanco said the acting governor wants to move government projects including a permitting application for the Alter City Group, which is building a hotel resort on Tinian, the port repairs at Rota and Tinian, and solid waste management programs all across the CNMI.

Blanco said the purpose of the Cabinet meeting is also urge the departments to "work together" to fast-track the projects.

Torres

Another point of discussion, Blanco said, is the inputs of each of the department in the ongoing review of a draft environmental impact statement by Dentons US LLC, a third-party consultant hired by the government to conduct the review.

Dentons earlier said it will solicit all the departments' inputs, prior to setting up a series of public hearings on the joint training draft EIS.

The schedule for the hearings will be on July 15, 16, and 17, on Saipan and Tinian.

Blanco said the team from Dentons is set to return to the CNMI before the scheduled public hearings.

Blanco added that Inos is expecting to see some progress once he gets back from his vacation.

Inos took a vacation after handing down a decision to grant a commutation of the prison sentence of former governor Benigno R. Fitial who was convicted of misconduct in public office and conspiracy to commit theft of service and sentenced to one year in prison.

But with the commutation, Fitial is not expected to spend time in jail.

CUC discloses plan to review payment proposal from CHCC

By JOEL PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s board of directors has set a period of 30 days to review a draft payment proposal from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

CUC board chair Adelina Roberto said the board has started the review last June 30 and will come out with a decision on July 30.

She said after a decision has been made, the CUC board will inform the CHCC and "discuss our own board's findings."

One of the major components of the draft proposal is a monthly payment of "at least" $150,000 after the CHCC pays the CUC a $250,000 payment for the month of June.

In a letter, the CHCC said it will make the monthly payment thereafter "using current allotment and other revenue sources until CHCC completes installation of a renewable system."

Roberto disclosed the CUC board's intent to conduct the 30-day review period during a meeting with lawmakers at Capital Hill on Monday.

She also stressed to the lawmakers that the proposal from the CHCC is a "draft proposal" and that the board will still need to discuss the proposal.

John Riegel, chief engineer and acting executive director at CUC, commenting on the proposal, said the CHCC board may "feel comfortable to pay the $150,000 now."

He said the proposed payment plan did not indicate how long the CHCC plans to pay the $150,000 per month. He also confirmed that this is a "concern" because the CHCC's power consumption in a month is about $500,000.

"It is an initial proposal, but it is lower than the actual consumption," Riegel said, adding that the proposal "is a very lengthy proposal, and is taking on two concepts."

CUC, CHCC meeting

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), head of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications, earlier called for a meeting with the CUC.

After hearing the updates from the CUC, the lawmaker said he now wants both the CUC and CHCC boards to meet with legislators in about "two weeks."

Igisomar said he wants "to know more" about the situation between the CHCC and CUC regarding the draft proposal.

"It is a draft proposal, saying it is all the CHCC can afford. It might go up, and I'm not saying it is a perfect agreement," Igisomar said

He did admit that he finds the proposal an "innovative payment plan."

Igisomar also expressed hope that the negotiations will bear results. "If the negotiations fail, and the CUC takes the CHCC to court, the government is again paying attorney's fees and other unnecessary costs," Igisomar said.

Liberation Day parade scheduled for July 11

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

»Opening of carnival grounds reopening eyed Thursday

The 2015 Liberation Day parade is scheduled for this Saturday, July 11, after Tropical Storm Chan-Hom's approach this past weekend caused the July 4 celebration to be postponed.

Apatang

Saipan Mayor's Office special assistant Henry Hofschneider said that although the parade is this Saturday, the Commonwealth is still on watch for an approaching storm once again.

"It's the schedule for now and Mayor David M. Apatang doesn't want to hold back the parade any longer and it will happen on Saturday. For the storm approaching we're hoping it doesn't come here, the winds don't pick up and conditions are good then it will happen," Hofschneider said.

If the storm approaches the CNMI, Hofschneider says that they have an alternative date, which is July 18.

"As of today we're mobilizing other materials in preparation for setting up the new canopies. We're monitoring the storm and if CNMI Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services advises us not to go forward with the parade on Saturday, the alternative is July 18," he said.

Skywalker Communications Group public relations manager Kiki Chen said that carnival grounds is eyed for opening this Thursday, July 9.

Chen says that as of now preparations are already mobilizing for the carnival grounds. The carnival grounds will have a new look, instead of the old tents the canopies that were supposedly for the opening of the Liberation festivities will now be used.

Chen also confirmed that this Saturday was the planned date for the Liberation parade, however, with a possible approaching storm an alternative date has been confirmed just in case.

The Liberation parade will be from Quartermaster to Garapan Fishing Base and starts at 9am.

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Housekeeping Supervisor, Mariana Resort & Spa

Norita joined Mariana Resort & Spa in 2008 as a front desk/reservation clerk. Since 2013, she has served as Housekeeping Assistant and recently promoted to Housekeeping Supervisor. Her work includes being in charge of housekeeping amenities, handling purchase orders and inventory, and checking rooms daily for cleanliness, neatness, organization, and any damage. She also helps facilitate room and hotel inspections and filming or photographing at the hotel.

My mom worked here in the late 1980s…

"My mom worked here in the 1980s. She was a cashier at the country club. Back then there was just the golf course and small cottages.

"When I first started working here I was just looking for a job, but later on, when I got used to it, I loved it! At first I worked at the front desk, meeting and greeting people. After a few months, I was transferred to reservations, dealing with tour agents and customers for optional tours: spa, golf, restaurant, and Marianas Trekking. It made me feel good knowing that I made a reservation for guests and they were going out to enjoy themselves. As housekeeping supervisor, now I check the rooms every day to make sure that when our guests check in, their rooms are really neat and they feel welcomed and important.

"I would say to young people, if it's your first time looking for a job, don't be picky. Whatever they offer, just grab it. You never know, maybe in the future step, step by step, you can reach your goal or dream. I plan to continue in the hotel industry. Every day is a challenge for me, and I enjoy the community here at Mariana Resort."

Wiseman orders govt to file its claim for restitution against Fitial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman issued an order yesterday directing the government to file its claim for restitution against convicted former governor Benigno R. Fitial on or before Sept. 10, 2015.

In a post-sentencing order, Wiseman said any objection to the government's claim for restitution shall be filed within 10 days thereafter.

Pursuant to the sentence and commitment order issued June 26, 2015, the 69-year-old Fitial was required to pay restitution in an amount to be determined at a later time.

The judge further ordered a status conference for Aug. 12, 2015 at 1:30pm to determine the status and/or plan for payment of the $6,000 fine and the $100 court assessment fee.

Wiseman said if the fine and assessment fee are paid prior to Aug. 12, the matter will be taken off calendar.

In Fitial's pre-sentence report, attorney Stephen J. Nutting, counsel for the former governor, recommended that if the court determines a term of imprisonment be imposed, that it be suspended in its entirety, on the condition that Fitial pay an appropriate fine, and restitution to for any loss to the CNMI which might be proven for the crimes he now stands to answer for.

Last June 24, Wiseman slapped Fitial with six years in prison, all suspended except one year.

Wiseman ordered Fitial to pay a $6,000 fine and $100 in court assessment fee.

On the restitution matter, Wiseman ordered Fitial to pay it in amount to be determined at a later time.

Fitial was ordered to start serving the prison term at DOC on or before yesterday, July 6. His release date is supposed to be July 6, 2016.

But on Sunday, Gov. Eloy S. Inos granted the commutation of the one-year prison sentence for Fitial. It means the former chief executive will get no jail time.

Last June 30, the CNMI Board of Parole conducted a pardon hearing and voted to recommend Gov. Eloy S. Inos for the commutation of Fitial's sentence.

Fitial signed a plea agreement with the government and pleaded guilty last May 13 to misconduct in public office and conspiracy to commit theft of services, making him to become the first governor of the CNMI convicted of crimes.

The offense of misconduct in public office refers to the time when Fitial had his masseuse—a female Chinese who was at that time a federal prisoner at DOC—temporarily released so she could massage him at his house on Jan. 8, 2010.

The conspiracy to commit theft of services refers to Fitial's role in former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham's efforts to evade lawful service of process during his departure from the Commonwealth at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport on Aug. 3 or 4, 2012.

MYPros raises funds at 1st inaugural meeting, donates to Rota

The Marianas Young Professionals gave donations to the relief drive for Typhoon Dolphin victims on Rota.

As part of the group's commitment to "give back to the Marianas," members raised nearly $1,000 to purchase nonperishable food items for those in Rota who are still recovering from the disaster left by Typhoon Dolphin.

"Although natural disasters are beyond our control we know the importance of investing in our community," said MYPros director, Matthew Deleon Guerrero.

"I'm really happy with the food donation," said MYPros president Bo Palacios. "It is a rewarding feeling to know that MYPros is giving back to the community."

"Our membership continues to grow and it is exciting because we as a collective have a lot to offer our members and the Marianas, and vice versa," said MYPros vice president Nola Hix.

First inaugural meeting

The donation, delivered recently at the Saipan Mayor's Office, was raised at MYPros' first general membership meeting (M3) at Naked Fish last June.

The event was well-attended by dozens of emerging leaders who are doing phenomenal work in the community.

During the meeting, the keynote address was given by Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio which was followed by a question and answer where members engaged her with detailed questions about the military plans, same-sex marriage, and other issues affecting the CNMI.

It was followed by a presentation by Hyun Jae Lee who introduced "Let's End It, CNMI!" a community awareness project.

Over the past four months, MYPros said it has managed to establish its identity with the support and efforts of its enthusiastic members. It has also started organizing committees and events to fulfill its mission to "connect passionate young professionals with opportunities for social and professional growth and civic engagement for the benefit of the Commonwealth."

MYPRos said the number of activities they organized will increase and will have a particular focus on events targeted to young professionals, such as lectures, workshops, networking, volunteering, civic activism opportunities, and social events.

Interested individuals within the ages of 21 to 40 may register to be a member of MYPros by visiting www.mypros.org. ***(Frauleine S. Villanueva)***

EPA

From Page 1

anas Islands Training and Testing area, or MITT. Among other sonar, vessel, and on-land training, the U.S. Navy has offered three training alternatives, two of which sees explosive ordnance use rise well-over 6,000 for FDM. The other alternative sees current use at the same level, or at 2,150 explosives.

EPA's final comments on June 18, follows their comments on the Navy's "draft" impact statement in 2013, where EPA had rated Navy findings as "insufficient." This, over the lack of information provided on potential erosion from increased bombing and the effects of sediment runoff on corals around the island.

Since that time, the Navy has added a map covering the distribution and percent cover of corals surrounding FDM, as EPA requested. They also included results from dive surveys the Navy has conducted since 1999.

In EPA's letter, Environmental Review Section manager Kathleen Martyn Goforth notes that the final impact documents attribute impacts to FDM's physical environment in 2007, 2008, 2010, and 2012, but that the Navy found that coral fauna were observed to be "healthy and robust."

Goforth goes on to say, though, that this appears to be contradicted in the Navy's 2012 dive report, which documents "several coral barnacle infestation" identified as a "significant adverse change."

"The dive report concludes that this is not a result of military training," she said. "However, this conclusion is based solely on the fact that these barnacles were also found on a reef of north of FDM."

The Navy's survey explains that the presence of high densities of barnacles means the corals are "highly impacted by other stressors." The Navy said, "Coral barnacles can be likened to an 'opportunistic infection' that are merely indicative of a 'weakened immune system."

The Navy also states, "It's these unknown stressors that are causing the [coral species] to die."

Goforth writes though, that, "The presence of these barnacles on a reef north of FDM does not preclude the possibility that increased sedimentation and/or the presence of munitions constituents are contributing to the weakened immune system of the corals at FDM."

"Observations of existing coral health do not demonstrate that a training increase magnitude proposed would have less than significant effect on corals surrounding FDM," she goes on to say.

According to the EPA, the Navy is proposing "a substantial increase in the use of explosive munitions on FDM." The annual number of bombs dropped on land targets annually at FDM would increase three-fold—from 2,150 to 6,242, EPA said.

In EPA's estimation, the Navy is also proposing to increase explosive missile use annually by 42 percent, from 60 to 85. They also want to introduce 2,000 explosive rockets not currently used on the island, and increase explosive grenades and mortars by 500 percent, from 100 to 600. They also want an increase of small-caliber rounds by 1,348 percent (from 2,900 to 42,000).

"These actions have the potential to greatly increase erosion and sedimentation," Goforth writes. "We recommend that the Record of Decision [which finalizes the Navy's request] commit to annual dive surveys to continue to monitor the marine resources and the coral barnacle infestation at FDM, and that results from these surveys be made available to government agencies and the public," she said.

Exposure to fish, humans

In 2013, the EPA found that the Navy's 208 condition assessment for the Marianas Island range "did not asses the fate and transport of sediment, including munitions constituents, from FDM."

EPA had requested that the Navy discuss the results for their five-year reassessment in the final MITT documents if possible. However, according to Goforth, the Navy has not indicated whether an update to the range condition assessment occurred.

Citing the 2008 assessment, EPA said the Navy acknowledged "source loading of residual munitions constituents" in the Marianas range, but concluded that no further analysis was warranted since FDM poses "no risk to human receptors."

However, as they have commented on earlier impact documents, EPA says ecological and human receptors should be considered in range condition assessments, since, there is a potential for human receptors via the "fish consumption pathway," which the Navy fails to recognize in their range assessments, EPA says.

Goforth said the Navy's final impact documents recognize FDM has been and continues to be an important area for local fishers. She said the Navy's 2008 study already notes that aerial bombing and ship bombardment at FDM as "significant source of munitions constituents." She said the Navy is proposing to introduce 2,000 rockets per year at FDM with a 4-percent failure rate— "which leaves unconsumed explosives in the environment," Goforth says.

"We recommend that future range condition assessments evaluate the fish consumption pathway, including potential sampling of fished species for munitions constituents, and that a commitment to this evaluation be included in the Record of Decision," she said.

ONLINE

From Page 1

Perhaps," Hunter said.

Hunter added "that there are many members of our community that feel strongly that (former governor) Fitial should not have been given any special treatment at all and if anything should be treated more harshly because if the position he held."

"I am glad, however, that his criminal record was not erased completely and that history will remember him (Fitial) as the first CNMI governor who so blatantly abused his powers that the people of the CNMI rose up and challenged him. The people's voice was heard and the Legislature impeached him on grounds of blatantly corrupt acts," he said.

The governor on Sunday handed a decision to commute the prison sentence for Fitial citing the former official's health condition. Fitial was to serve a one-year prison sentence starting Monday, but with the commutation order, he will not serve any jail time.

But the commutation order stated that, "all other conditions, requirements, and obligations imposed by the court shall not be affected by this Commutation Order and shall remain."

US Attorney for the CNMI?

Hunter said his focus right now is to "demand to the federal government to immediately install our own U.S. Attorney."

"I strongly believe that if we had one when Fitial committed many of the major crimes, a CNMI-based U.S. Attorney would not have turned a blind eye and would have endured that justice was served years ago rather than having our public wait over five years for the local courts and our OPA (Office of the Public Auditor) to bring Fitial to justice," he said.

Hunter lamented that it is long past due that the CNMI be granted its own U.S. Attorney.

"We are the only place in all of the USA (and territories) that has a U.S. district court but no U.S. Attorney. We have a federal judge. We have a Federal Magistrate Judge, we have a staffed U.S. Attorney's Office, we have Federal Court support staff, and we are in the process of constructing a multi-million dollar, brand new federal district court, yet we SHARE a federal U.S. Attorney. That is unacceptable," he said.

He added that the CNMI has "been sharing a U.S. Attorney who is placed in Guam and covering the CNMI." Hunter was referring to U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and CNMI Alicia Limtiaco

Hunter said her office would have been the one to bring charges against Fitial.

"I'm glad that although we had a federal U.S. Attorney based out of Guam and our own AG's office both turn blind eyes to Fitial's outright corrupt acts that our own CNMI OPA rose up to investigate, prosecute, and obtain a conviction," Hunter, in a post on social media earlier said.

FITIAL

From Page 1

about the commutation.

Nutting said while a few have spoken out against Inos' decision, he believes anyone who might read Inos' decision with the smallest amount of objectivity, would be forced to conclude that the governor's decision was very fair.

Nutting said Inos was able to balance the harm to the Commonwealth, against the harm to Fitial, as well as weighing the numerous accomplishments Fitial has done for the CNMI throughout his career.

"He has my utmost respect," the lawyer said.

In a phone interview yesterday, Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George Hasselback said he recommended to Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman a sentence what he saw was appropriate for Fitial.

Hasselback said Wiseman imposed a different sentence and Inos substituted his judgment for that of the judge.

Hasselback said Inos believes in his right to do the commutation of Fitial's sentence.

"Beyond that I don't have much to say," said the OPA legal counsel who also serves as the special prosecutor in Fitial's case.

At the sentencing hearing last June 24, Hasselback recommended to slap Fitial with a two-year imprisonment with no parole. Chief prosecutor Leonardo Rapadas recommended a sentence of more than a year in prison.

Wiseman sentenced the 69-year-old Fitial to one year in prison. The former governor was supposed to start serving the prison term yesterday, Monday, but Inos decided on Sunday for the commutation of the jail term.

Fitial signed a plea agreement with the government and pleaded guilty last May 13 to misconduct in public office and conspiracy to commit theft of services, making him the first governor of the CNMI convicted of crimes.

PSS wants authority to set salaries put back into Education Act bill

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System wants the authority to determine its salaries placed back into a pending education bill, after the section was removed in a recent draft, according to a letter from the CNMI State Board of Education to the Legislature.

The letter, dated on June 30, provided the Public School System and the board's comments on several bills sitting with the House education committee. Written by board chair Herman T. Guerrero and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, it was sent to committee chair Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan).

The bill in question, House Bill 19-10, or "Education Act," is absent section 1182 "PSS Employee Compensation," according to the board.

"It is unclear why this section was removed from the bill but it is essential that the Board of Education be responsible for determining the salaries of PSS staff," writes Guerrero.

The board says PSS suffers from a problem with recruiting and retaining teachers, which is exacerbated by low salaries. The board says public schools see teachers take a job with them right out of college, but after gaining experience on island take "those skills elsewhere so they can get paid more."

"We essentially become the training ground for teachers and consistently lose the once they have the skills to earn more. This is a disservice to our students and to our island. We need to be able to competitive with other school districts and therefore need to be able to recruit and maintain good teachers. This can only occur if we are able to pay them a competitive wage," Guerrero said.

Furthermore, Guerrero said, it is constitutionally impermissible for the legislature to reprogram PSS money. PSS should decide what needs it has and what is the most effective way to spend, Guerrero said. "That is why the Board of Education is in place," he added, saying this should not be left to the "subject of politics."

In the letter, the state board and PSS assure they will develop a comprehensive classification plan designed to ensure that staff are classified appropriately and consistent with their education, work experience, skills, duties, responsibilities, and qualification requirements.

Guerrero also says the board can respond and react quicker than the Legislature to PSS' needs and to changes in the employment environment. The board needs the flexibility to react accordingly, he said. And policy changes take the board less time to research, discuss, and pass than the Legislature, he added.

In an interview, Guerrero said the Legislature might fear the board is going to increase salaries for PSS employees. But they forget PSS can only increase salaries if there is funding through appropriations, which are set by the Legislature.

He also said they could not go into a "deficit" beyond what they were given through appropriations. Even if they made a compensation plan, without money set for the plan, it could not be effected.

Puerto Rico tank back online

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s new water tank in Puerto Rico was online for only two days last week after a flushing exercise left it short of water.

CUC staff was looking to get it back online yesterday morning. As of press time yesterday, it was being brought back online, according to CUC acting executive director John Riegel.

The water tank in Puerto Rico, one of several water tanks across the island that the CNMI Water Task Force and CUC have aimed to replace, came online last week Tuesday.

"It was a little more than we needed to be, so we lost a little height in the tank, so we took it off line to recover the water that was used during the flushing exercise… It is being filled now," Riegel said.

The 1 million-gallon water tank fills as high as 43 feet. It is about 46 feet tall.

The tank provides water service to customers in Puerto Rico, Sadog Tasi, Lower Base, and portions of Garapan. The tank came online after a $2-million project funded through federal grants was finished last Tuesday.

According to Riegel, the Puerto Rico tank was one of the worst condition tanks first identified across the island.

"The center column was gone, the roof rafters gone and the roof was just hanging," he said.

According to Riegel, other tanks they are looking to replace are the Papago, Gualo Rai, San Vicente, and "NMC" water tanks.

The NMC tank is going through design right now, Riegel said. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

CNMI has new transport chief

The CNMI has a new transport chief with the appointment of Alfreda Marie P. Camacho as special assistant for public transportation for Commonwealth Transit Authority.

Camacho succeeded Thomas J. Camacho, who succumbed to cancer last month.

Acting governor Ralph DLG. Torres appointed Camacho to head the COTA.

She started her public service career at the Department of Commerce as the Administrative Manager for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects.

With a break in the private sector after working for government, Camacho joined the COTA team under the late Thomas J. Camacho during the agency's infancy.

Prior to her appointment, she served as the Acquisition, Program Oversight Management, and Marketing Coordinator with COTA.

Camacho

Several of her responsibilities include the review and approval of all solicitation and development of contracts under federal and local procurement regulations; providing oversight for contractors under COTA federal programs; planning, coordinating, and marketing COTA's strategic plans for revenue generating outcomes, among others duties.

Camacho recently graduated from the U.S. Graduate School's highly competitive Executive Development Leadership Program designed to groom exceptionally qualified and skilled government staff with the potential for promotion into senior or managerial positions.

Camacho is also a current participant in the highly competitive Pacific Century Fellows-Marianas Chapter designed after the White House Fellows Program to study regional and U.S. policies as they affect the current and future of the CNMI.

She graduated from Grace Christian Academy with an internship at Stanford University with the Junior Statesman of America Program. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources and Business Management from Portland State University in June of 2009.

The administration is confident in Camacho's abilities and efforts to provide continued public service under COTA.

"I am confident in Alfreda's ability to continue the work at COTA, and I encourage our highly educated individuals to serve in government, the private sector, and in our communities," Torres said.

Torres also said Camacho is an asset to the administration and the island communities she serves. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

2nd retrial of Grandpa Ping starts

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

»Prosecution: Case of old man who sexually assaulted little girl

»Defense: Terrible story about false accusations

The second retrial began yesterday of Jose Ilo Santos, a 63-year-old man accused of sexually abusing a then-7-year-old girl at his residence in Tanapag in 2011.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the Superior Court yesterday at 4pm, Dr. Chad Lowe, a former physician at the Commonwealth Health Center, has just started with his testimony.

Lowe, who is now working in Portland, Oregon, is the government's first witness. Lowe was then-assigned at CHC's pediatrics and internal medicine sections when she examined the alleged victim.

In the government's opening statements, assistant attorney general Emily Cohen said this case is about an old man who sexually assaulted a little girl.

Cohen said defendant Santos is an old man that the little girl trusted and called Grandpa Ping.

Cohen said the then-60-year-old Santos sexually assaulted the girl twice and that the latest incident had caused her so much pain.

The prosecutor said when the mother learned about the sexual assault she went to the police and brought her daughter to the hospital.

Cohen said the doctor's examination showed that the girl was indeed sexually assaulted.

In the defense's opening statements, assistant public defender Michael Sato, counsel for Santos, said this is a case about false accusations.

Sato said Santos is a nice old man and that the girl is just like a granddaughter to him.

Sato described the government's case as "a terrible story" that has a lot of unanswered questions.

In October 2012, the jury found Santos guilty of two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

In March 2013, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho sentenced the defendant to the maximum of 60 years in prison, to be served without the possibility of parole.

Santos appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court.

In December 2014, the high court then ruled that the trial court abused its discretion by permitting the victim advocate to accompany the girl at the witness stand. The high court reversed the convictions and ordered a new jury trial.

A retrial was held in March 2015. But Camacho declared a mistrial after the jury was left with only five members.

One juror refused to attend the trial while another, a Corrections officer, was disqualified for not disclosing that he knows Santos and has been seeing him regularly at the Department of Corrections.

The second retrial commenced yesterday. Camacho is presiding over the jury trial.

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6822/23/24 • Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu • Website: www.nmcnet.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 15-004
ROOF REPLACEMENT, BUILDING J, NMC AS TERLAJE, SAIPAN CAMPUS

Northern Marianas College is soliciting sealed bid for the Roof Replacement of Building J at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje, Saipan Campus.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan, commencing Tuesday, June 30, 2015 between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting and site inspection for interested person, firms and corporation will be held on July 14, 2015 at 10:00am, NMC Procurement Management Office, Bldg. L, 2nd floor, conference room.

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., July 31, 2015, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This procurement is 100% Federally Funded by the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by:

/s/Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

/s/ David J. Attao
Dean of Administration Resource Development

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE DCRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a DCRM Agency Officials Special Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at 10:00 AM at the BECQ-DCRM conference room, Suite 302, Gualo Rai Center, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
   a) Call to Order
   b) Roll Call
   c) Adoption of June 25 & 26, 2015 Meeting Minutes

II. **PERMIT APPLICATION**
   1. Villora Condotel Residence Project (CRM Permit Application No.SMS-2015-X-007)
      a. Discussions by DCRM Agency Officials and Director
      b. Permit Application Determination

III. **ADJOURNMENT**

PSS eyes $535K upgrades to Distance Ed program

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System is applying for a $425,000 technology grant to connect 400 students via teleconference in Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. The Board of Education approved PSS' application during their most recent meeting.

With the grant, PSS also aims to reduce personnel costs by hundreds of thousands of dollars through online courses.

The total cost of the VTC equipment is $535,500.

PSS will commit in cash $110,500 to this purchase of video teleconference equipment as local match.

The grant will be used to bolster PSS' Distance Education program. The grant comes through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

PSS will acquire computer hardware and software, audio and video equipment, computer network components, telecommunications terminal equipment, data terminal equipment, and other infrastructure and technical assistance for their program.

PSS says the grant will benefit teachers and students by providing 13 core courses in math, science, language arts, and Advanced Placement courses through video conferencing technology.

The grant will also help provide professional development courses during after school hours for teachers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, PSS says.

PSS says online teachers are currently forced to travel on a monthly basis to learn challenges from students on other islands. The travel costs, room board, and per diem are paid through local funds that amount to $18,400, PSS says.

But with the teleconference equipment, travel costs will be reduced and this "will allow teachers to provide a more personalized and quality engagement to their students."

PSS estimates the VTC will reduce personnel costs by $280,000 by providing thirteen online courses, which would require seven teachers that would assume and average cost of $40,000 per teacher.

PSS also says VTC will reduce travel costs for professional development for 21 teachers between Tinian and Rota to Saipan a year at a cost of $16,380.

Each year there are over 1600 students enrolled in the Distant Ed program. PSS offers 48 online courses. PSS does not have enough teachers to provide all required courses at its secondary schools.

PSS plans 10 Distance Education centers at Tanapag Middle School, Chacha Oceanview, Kagman High School, Marianas High School, Dandan Middle School, Hopwood Junior High School, San Antonio Middle School, Saipan Southern High School, Tinian Jr. Sr. High School, and Rota High School.

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Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences
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Opening of Marpi cemetery eyed end of August, early September

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A solution for the lack of burial sites on Saipan in finally on the horizon as former House speaker Oscar Babauta said the Marpi cemetery would finally be opening at the end of August or early September.

Babauta, who is spearheading the opening of the public cemetery, said that there isn't "any timetable set yet," but acknowledged that he is working with a committee to address the opening and technical details of the northern cemetery.

"It was turned over to the government in 2012 since then it was put into law for the general public's usage. I am correctly working and coordinating on the opening of the public, which would probably happen at the end of August or early September, but there isn't attentive dates," Babauta said.

"I am now working on small technical issues in regards to the public cemetery. Some include the power system that would upgrade the well and the services through an irrigation system. I am also awaiting on the Department of Public Works for the design of a generator house and security fencing of the facilities that are there," he added.

The security fence would protect the pump house and a deep well located at the cemetery. Babauta said that the reasons for these is that the administration required the cemetery to be "well-kept and secured."

"We're currently working on all technical issues and despite not having a specific time date, we don't know when the technical issues would be resolved," he said.

Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, special adviser to the Department of Land and Natural Resources secretary/grants program, said that DLNR, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Division of Public Health's Bureau of Environmental Health, and other government agencies are working on the matter. However, Babauta is leading the project.

"We're happy to finally move forward with the project," Teregeyo said.

The Marpi public cemetery is supposed to be a non-denominational public cemetery and has 2,500 double-stack occupancy crypts for a total of 5,000 burials. The cemetery is said to have the potential to provide over 50,000 crypts for 33 years.

The $2.9-million Marpi public cemetery was made possible by funding from the U.S. Department of the Interior through a capital improvement project grant in early 2011.

DLNR, through Public Law 11-117, has a freehold interest in public land situated in the Marpi area. There are three lots adjacent to the Veteran's Cemetery and surround the Veteran's Cemetery itself that is eyed for the project.

DLNR is tasked with the maintenance of the cemetery, while DPH is tasked with the burial applications and collection fees.

A 15-year-old law—Public Law 11-117—designates DPH as the main administrator and is tasked to manage the public cemetery. PL 11-117 puts the responsibility of application requirements, approval, issuance, and fee for burial permits. Fees cannot exceed $50, and may be waived for indigent families and for unclaimed bodies.

DPH can also include conditions on burial permits that are necessary to protect the health of the public. Fees will be charged as well for exhumation.

DPL: Bill on free trade zones is 'unconstitutional'

Senate Bill 19-29, if enacted into law, unconstitutionally infringes on the Department of Public Lands' authority manage and dispose public lands by transferring such authority to CNMI mayors.

The DPL was being sought for an opinion on SB 19-29, which hopes to add to the existing laws on FTZs by urging departments to identify more lands in the Northern Islands as locations for FTZs.

DPL Secretary Pedro A. Tenorio, in a letter, also recommended to the Legislature to "take a second look" at Public Law 12-20 and Public Law 18-16, both of which touches on establishing free trade zones in the CNMI.

"We believe that they (SB 19-29, PL 12-20, and PL 18-16) all do infringe," Tenorio in a letter addressed to Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) who introduced SB 19-29, said.

Igisomar earlier said he has withdrawn the proposed legislation.

"I got positive feedback from the different agencies and mayors," Igisomar said.

Igisomar explained that SB 19-29 also essentially "pressures" the DPL to assign Pagan, which is part of the Northern Islands, as an FTZ.

The FTZ bill would have also paved the way to address other concerns including the resettlement of Pagan residents as well as homesteading programs.

The core business of the FTZ on the Northern Islands would have been ecotourism since the zones are proposed to be established near the seaport and airport.

"The idea is start the development from there," Igisomar said.

However, upon consultation with government agencies, including the DPL, Igisomar said he has withdrawn SB 19-29.

One question from the DPL is the potential leases of trade zone areas, which are public lands, Igisomar said.

The DPL has sole discretion to determine leasing negotiations for public lands not exceeding 5 hectares, according to the Constitution.

A free trade zone board is mandated to handle the negotiations which run counter to DPL's mandate on the public land leases.

Igisomar said this is one of the reasons why he has withdrawn the bill for further review and to incorporate the DPL's comments.

The Commonwealth Development Authority and Carolinian Affairs Office were also consulted, but Igisomar did not disclose any feedback from these agencies.

In March, Igisomar pre-filed SB 19-29 aiming to bring agencies together to set off the process of resettling Pagan.

SB 19-29 seeks to amend Public Law 18-16 on free trade zones so that the departments of Public Works, Public Lands, and Lands and Natural Resources, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority can collaborate and cooperate with the Northern Islands mayor in identifying free trade zones on Pagan. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

No Rota power outages, ports reopen

As Tropical Storm Chan-Hom passed through the CNMI, there were no power outages on Rota and only brief outages in Garapan, CUC acting executive director John Riegel told *Saipan Tribune*.

Riegel said the CNMI did well during the storm.

As for the outages, Riegel said they came back within an hour.

Meanwhile, the CNMI ports have since reopened after they were closed for hazardous conditions due to the storm.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Maryann Lizama confirmed this yesterday.

U.S. Coast Guard Captain J.B. Pruett reset the port condition and opened all commercial and cargo operations on Sunday at 2pm.

An all-clear condition for Rota was given yesterday morning as Tropical Storm Chan-Hom has moved away from the CNMI after its erratic movements during the weekend.

All warnings and conditions were lowered for Saipan and Tinian as early as Sunday afternoon.

Chan-Hom was expected to turn toward the northwest and head away from the CNMI.

There were no reports of damage, casualties, or even power and water outages because of the storm. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

PERSONAL LOAN: The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) of 3.99% will apply to new, approved personal loan applications received from 7/1/15 to 8/31/15 with a principal amount of $10,050.00 and a term of 12 months. Loans with other principal amounts ($2,500 minimum loan amount) and terms are available, but the promotional APR may differ. A one-time documentation preparation fee of $50.00 applies to all loans under this promotion and will be added to the principal balance. For a 12-month loan of $10,050.00 at 3.99% APR, you will have 12 monthly payments of $851.46, which includes principal and interest. Offer subject to credit approval. This offer does not apply to business or real estate loans. Also, the proceeds of the loan cannot be used to pay off any existing First Hawaiian Bank credit cards, personal loans or lines-of-credit.

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Marianas Young Professionals meets Anuhea

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
Marianas Young Professionals members met with Hawaiian musician Anuhea at the Kanoa Resort last Friday. Through the meeting, members were able to know how it was like to be a young professional chasing a dream in the music industry.

Members of the Marianas Young Professionals had a chance to meet Hawaiian singer Anuhea at Kanoa Resort's Nami Bar last Friday.

Hosted by MYPros and Steven Brownstein Entertainment, the young professionals group gave Anuhea her first taste of Saipan's island hospitality.

Anuhea, her family, and her band members arrived on the island early Friday morning.

"We love the island vibe of this place," Anuhea said, "We're happy to be here."

"To be here right now finally is awesome," she added.

Because of the meet and greet, MYPros members got a chance to get to know Anuhea on a more personal level.

"We wanted to do a nice meet and greet because she is a young professional. We thought it will be great to get a real professional who's out there, chasing her dreams, and making her dreams happen. We thought it will be great for our young professionals to meet her in person," MYPros vice president Nola Hix said.

"I support MYPros entirely," Steven Brownstein said.

For one, Anuhea shared her humble beginnings in her music career.

"I had always loved music. Even if I am a musician, I never had any formal training ever," she said.

Anuhea said she taught herself to play the guitar and play her favorite songs when she was in high school. Then when social media came along, that's where she got discovered.

Asked what inspires her, Anuhea said it's everything around her.

"The world around me, being in love, going through breakups, having a baby now," she said.

"I just think that what you love and what you listen to and what you're more familiar with is going to be the kind of music that you make," Anuhea added.

One MYPros member asked how she balances time with her family and with her career especially with her current tour.

"You just make it work," Anuhea said, "just make the best of it."

Anuhea added that those who wanted to start in the music industry should work hard.

"Everything is not ever handed to you in this industry, as some people may think. You have to work really hard," Anuhea said.

"To anyone else who's starting in music, to just finding the funding to record your album is probably the hardest part but once you get through that, it's so much fun and so rewarding, I'm sure you'll be addicted to continuing to release after that hustle and struggle, it's fun," she said.

Satellite Internet communication access planned for NI

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Islands Mayor Jerome K. Aldan wants to implement satellite Internet communication access in the Northern Islands and has so far solicited proposals from two companies.

Two of the vendors Aldan has reached out to provide satellite Internet communications in the Northern Islands are Hughes Global Service and Exede Internet.

"The impetus in seeking alternative communication access came about as a result of the grant expiration, which funded Internet access in Pagan in conjunction with the installation of a state-of-the-art fiber optic communication technology around Pagan. Internet communication, among other uses, was available for the past three years courtesy of a grant managed by the local CNMI Homeland Security," Aldan said.

Aldan said that the type of communication service/technology needed is one that provides capacity to develop the Northern Islands' existing fishing and eco-tourism industries. A stable satellite Internet connection will allow the islands' school-aged children and advanced scholars alike access to proper educational materials and allow for scientists to study the unique plant life and marine biology.

In his letter to Hughes and Exede, Aldan expressed high interest in both vendors for information.

Both letters to the two companies said that, "the native residents of Gani Islands, such as Pagan Island have been deprived of basic communication services. For this reason, I would like to inquire about the possibility of subscribing to your U.S. or worldwide communications network."

In his letter, Aldan said he would like to offer a space for Exede or Hughes to apply their technologies on Pagan Island. Specifically, what may be required is sufficient bandwidth to enable basic communication, phone, Internet access, educational materials/videos, distance education, telemedicine, etc., for up to 1,000 inhabitants.

Aldan said that his office can provide either C band or KU band antennas. To operate this technology, he'd like to know about the type of electronic equipment that may be required or needed from Exede or Hughes and whether they could provide the required equipment if his office could commit to a long-term subscription and at what cost.

Another reason in seeking Internet communication is the interest and concern expressed by Office of Insular Affairs Assistant Secretary Esther Kai'aina on communication access in the Northern Islands in her recent meeting with Aldan. During the meeting Aldan informed her about the lack of communication access on the island other than a single band radio. The Northern Islands Mayor's Office used to have telephone access via satellite but Homeland Security and Emergency Management has not provided the equipment to Aldan as of yet.

Kai'aina also gave a letter to Aldan expressing input on Internet communications.

"We…discussed the Internet connection, which was recently terminated because of maintenance cost. What I found from Homeland Security Emergency Management Office is that it costs around $80,000 a year to maintain and keep the Internet running on Pagan Island. However, the deputy special assistant for HSEM mentioned that the local homeland security office is testing a more inexpensive option costing a mere $3,000 Internet connection fee a month," Kai'aina said.

"We are hopeful that we may get some technical assistance in this area considering that communication is imperative to the lives of the people in the Northern Islands, not to mention the potential for distance learning and telemedicine capabilities. Currently the form of communication is through a VHF single ssideband radio, which during inclement weather has poor to no reception. This is another activity that perhaps your office could provide technical assistance to the Northern Islands," she added.

BSI artist registration open until July 12

Summer is here and in the spirit of the 70th Liberation Festivities, Best Sunshine International, Ltd. is welcoming CNMI citizens of all ages to submit artistic interpretations of the future of Saipan for the Discover the Future of Saipan Art Competition. As the focus of the artwork is the future, young artists' submissions are welcome and encouraged. Registration will be open until July 12. Artwork must depict the future of Saipan and must contain local elements of native hospitality and/or elements of the CNMI tourism industry.

The top 3 entries that receive the most votes by the end of business on July 17, 2015 (5pm) will be considered the winning entries and will receive cash prizes for back to school expenses or art supplies. The top 10 to 20 entries will also have the opportunity to be featured in a high visibility campaign. All entries and registration forms with must be emailed to bsiartcompetition@gmail.com. You can also pick up artist registration forms at the Mariana Business Plaza, room 204. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Attorney general warns against price gouging

As Tropical Storm Nangka approaches the Northern Mariana Islands following the heels of Tropical Storm Chan-Hom which has moved away from the Commonwealth, consumers should be aware that unscrupulous retailers and businesses may try to profit illegally from the storms.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan sternly warns retailers that the Consumer Protection Act makes it unlawful for any business to engage in price gouging. The Attorney General explains, "price gouging occurs when a business increases prices based on the shortage of goods caused by a natural disaster or any other emergency." He added, "the Office of the Attorney General will prosecute, both criminally and civilly, any business that engages in price gouging."

Contact Carla Torres, PIO of the Office of the Attorney General at 237-7500, or email Assistant Attorney General James Zarones at jzarones@dps.gov.mp for more information on price gouging. ***(PR)***

2nd Annual International Festival of Cultures set

The 2nd Annual International Festival of Cultures will be held Aug. 22 and 29 and Sept. 5, 12, 19, and 26 at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan and will celebrate the cultural diversity of the Northern Mariana Islands, with special emphasis on the indigenous cultures of Micronesia. Cultural groups are encouraged to contact Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects Specialist Ryan Calvo at rcalvo@mymarianas.com or 664-3210 to participate. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting this Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 16, 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room.

The guest speaker will be Ronald Sablan, Medical Referral director, Office of the Governor and the topic is "Medical Referral Program Update."

To RSVP or for more information, please call CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

WIOA 2015 Summer Youth Employment Training Program Qualifiers

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY FOR ALL QUALIFIERS

SAIPAN QUALIFIER

1	ADA, Richard William C.	Office Clerk Trainee	DPW-Administrative Services Division
2	ADERKEROI, Francia Ungil D.	File Clerk Trainee	Bank of Saipan
3	AGULTO, Ramon Jose R.	Field Technician Trainee	DLNR-DOA CNMI Forestry
4	AGUON, Juan Carlos B.	Office Clerk Trainee	DPL-Real Estate Division
5	AGUON, Mariano Junior A.	Bellhop Trainee	Aqua Resort Club
6	AGUON, Mayleen Ann T.	Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Human Resources
7	AGUSTIN, Sherwin M. Jr.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	Celnaps Enterprises
8	ALARZAR, Jan Rae M.	Housekeeping Attendant Trainee	Century Hotel
9	ALARZAR, John Ralph M.	Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Public Health Administration
10	ALDAN, Brandon M.	Office Clerk Trainee	DOL-Enforcement Division
11	AMANDUS, Cathy K.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	Coral Ocean Golf Resort
12	AMANDUS, Tyrol	Office Clerk Trainee	Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc.
13	ANDY, Myron J.	HR Clerk Trainee	Hyatt Regency Saipan-HR
14	ANSAY, Faith Rose Y.	Billing Trainee	Marianas Health
15	ANSAY, Rich Angel Y.	Steward Trainee	Revolving Restaurant 360
16	APATANG, Bonita B.	Ticketing Agent Trainee	Pacific Airport Services
17	BABAUTA, Brandon John T.	Filing Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Health Information Management Dept.
18	BABAUTA, Veronnie Ann S.	Clerk Trainee	DOF-Revenue & Taxation
19	BABAUTA, Versalli R.	TBD*	TBD*
20	BABAUTA, Vinae Remae S.	Front Desk Trainee	Saipan World Resort
21	BALBIN, Isaac Jae P.	Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Public Health Administration
22	BALBIN, Neyzaxeria Pinailugh B.	Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Laboratory
23	BALBIN, Nikolai Jay P.	Delivery Driver Helper	JG Sablan Water & Ice, Inc.
24	BAYOT, Edryan M.	Waiter Trainee	Revolving Restaurant 360
25	BILLY, Billy John A.	TBD*	TBD*
26	BILLY, J-lyn A.	TBD*	TBD*
27	BORJA, Franicia S.	Office Clerk Trainee	DOL-WIA Division
28	BUEKIS, Florens Nafaman II C.	Field Technician Trainee	DLNR-DOA CNMI Forestry
29	BUNUSEK, Jang J.	Library Assistant Trainee	Joeten Kiyu Public Library
30	CABRERA, Dorcy Ann C.	Precheck Agent Trainee	Pacific Airport Services
31	CABRERA, Jonathan John A.	Office Clerk Trainee	DOL-Employment Services Division
32	CABRERA, Zachary Jay C.	Sales Representative Trainee	Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc.
33	CAMACHO, Carmanda Carmen A.	Parole Officer Aide Trainee	Board of Parole
34	CAMACHO, Darren James B.	Purchasing Assistant Trainee	Kanoa Resort Saipan
35	CAMACHO, Isabel Rosa R.	Filing Clerk Trainee	Bank of Saipan
36	CAMACHO, Joshua Michael Jr. A.	Office Clerk Trainee	DOL-Administrative Services Division
37	CARONAN, Edfel D.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	CUC-Power Division
38	CELESTE, Wilson Kenneth C.	Merchandiser Trainee	MARPAC
39	CHARGUALAF, Caitlin DLG	Guest Service Officer Trainee	Hyatt Regency Saipan-Club Elan
40	CHONG, Francisco P.	Restaurant Greeter Trainee	Fiesta Resort & Spa
41	CRUZ, David Jesse M.	Office Clerk Trainee	DOL-WIA Division
42	DANFORD, Bobbie Jean II	Library Assistant Trainee	Joeten Kiyu Public Library
43	DAWE, Angel G.	Field Technician Trainee	DLNR-DOA CNMI Forestry
44	DAWE, Jess G.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	DLNR-DOA CNMI Forestry
45	DAWE, John G.	Office Clerk Trainee	DOL-Enforcement Division
46	DEDIOS, Ferdinand Jr. G.	Filing Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Health Information Management DepT.
47	DEJILLAS, Reyleann Monica M.	Office Clerk Trainee	Center for Living Independently (CLI)
48	DELA CRUZ, Cody James J.	TBD*	TBD*
49	DELA CRUZ, Kelvin Joshua T.	TBD*	TBD*
50	DEMAPAN, Joel John P.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	CUC-Accounting
51	DIAZ, Katherine Marie C.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	Northern Marianas College
52	DIONISIO, Frederick Kyle K.	TBD*	TBD*
53	DIONISIO, Mario Alberto K.	Clerk Trainee	DOF-Revenue & Taxation
54	DIZON, Reanna Lyn DLC	Office Clerk Trainee	DOL-Administrative Services Division
55	DOCA, Ronald Andrew DLC	Office Clerk Trainee	DPW-Technical Services Division
56	ELIAS, Isak J.R. R.	Clerk Trainee	DOF-Revenue & Taxation
57	ENISER, Jason Michael	Cargo Agent Trainee	Pacific Airport Services
58	ESNER, Kinisou Tamison C.	Recreation Facility Attendant Trainee	Laolao Bay Golf & Resort
59	ESNER, Krysner C.	TBD*	TBD*
60	FABIAN, Ternin S.	Guest Service Officer Trainee	Hyatt Regency Saipan-Communication Center
61	FAISAO, Jonavan Christopher C.	Field Technician Trainee	DLNR-DOA CNMI Forestry
62	FAISAO, Kayleen Jennifer T.	Office Clerk Trainee	Ayuda Network, Inc.
63	FAISAO, Quirin Jay T.	Warehouseman Trainee	CHCC-Material Management Office
64	FEJERAN, Jayjay Benigno S.	Merchandising Assistant Trainee	D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd
65	FERNANDEZ, Marijean F.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	Coral Ocean Golf Resort
66	FERNANDEZ, Marvin F.	TBD*	TBD*
67	GILDILAK, Joseph Sumed C.	TBD*	TBD*
68	GUERRERO, Leneah Jade T.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	Northern Marianas College
69	HAYAG, Camille M.	Gift Shop Trainee	Saipan World Resort
70	HAYAG, Christine Sofia M.	Cashier Trainee	Revolving Restaurant 360
71	HIGGINS, Mathen Pehmen P.	Billing Trainee	Marianas Health
72	HONORIO, Encabo R. II	F&B Assistant Coordinator Trainee	Kanoa Resort Saipan
73	IDERBEI, Grant R.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	DLNR-Outer Cove Marina Section
74	IDERBEI, Jovanny R.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	Saipan Stevedore Company, Inc.
75	IDERBEI, Lennox R.	Merchandising Assistant Trainee	D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd
76	IGISOMAR, Leony Jane	TBD*	TBD*
77	IGITOL, Alvilina Divine S.	TBD*	TBD*
78	ILO, LITIWSAAR MIYOCO	Office Clerk Trainee	DOL-Employment Services Division
79	ISKAWA, Rdechor Jr. T.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	CUC-Call Center
80	JACK, Zakari James	TBD*	TBD*
81	JAIMATOON, Manny P.	Field Technician Trainee	DLNR-DOA CNMI Forestry
82	JOHNNEY, Keteny I.	Front Desk Trainee	Let's Go Tour Company
83	JOHNNEY, Memoria May I.	Operations Documentation Clerk Trainee	Saipan Stevedore Company, Inc.
84	JONES, Jesseme L.	Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Public Health Program
85	JONES, Jesslyn L.	Cashier Trainee	JG Sablan Water & Ice, Inc.
86	JONES, JJ L.	Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Executive Secretary
87	KAAINOA, Joelyn Deann M.	TBD*	TBD*
88	KAIPAT, Alosia Betty	TBD*	TBD*
89	KAIPAT, Christine Mary W.	TBD*	TBD*
90	KAIPAT, Dante Peterson	Warehouseman Trainee	CHCC-Material Management Office
91	KAIPAT, Mariano Jayson W.	Field Technician Trainee	DLNR-DOA CNMI Forestry
92	KAIPAT, Monalisa C.	Administration Trainee	Marianas Health
93	KAIPAT, Pauleen-Malona W.	TBD*	TBD*
94	KAPILEO, Kurt Kyle T.	TBD*	TBD*
95	KASIAN, Roca I.	TBD*	TBD*
96	KEREMEN, Angela H.	Recreation Facility Attendant Trainee	Laolao Bay Golf & Resort
97	KEREMEN, Mieko Reikonin H.	Recreation Facility Attendant Trainee	Laolao Bay Golf & Resort
98	KING, Austin John M.	TBD*	TBD*
99	KING, Kursha Jo'an M.	TBD*	TBD*
100	LANGU, Richiko N.	Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Public Health Program
101	LANIYO, Minola Jane I.	Personnel Clerk Trainee	CSC-Office of Personnel Management
102	LEGASPI, Ryman L.	Kitchen Helper Trainee	Revolving Restaurant 360
103	LEO, Lorenzy Monique E.	Pacific Wellness Center Clerk Trainee	Marianas Health
104	LEON GUERRERO, Nathan Drew H.	Recreation Facility Attendant Trainee	Laolao Bay Golf & Resort
105	LIZAMA, Bryanna Marie B.	Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Hospital Administration
106	LIZAMA, Dorothea Camen D.	Clerk Trainee	DPL-Administration Division
107	LIZAMA, Jack David D.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	Northern Marianas College
108	LIZAMA, Roque R.	Bellhop Trainee	Saipan World Resort
109	MAFNAS, Eric John I. Jr.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	Office of the Public Defender
110	MAFNAS, Tahani Cherise I.	HR Clerk Trainee	Saipan World Resort
111	MAGOFNA, Angeles Victoria K.	Front Desk Trainee	Let's Go Tour Company
112	MAGOFNA, Penina Anastasha B.	Office Clerk Trainee	Office of Management & Budget
113	MAGOFNA, Rickie Ann K.	Account Clerk Trainee	DPW-Solid Waste Management Division
114	MAGOFNA, Trinidad Felisa B.	Home Care Clerk Trainee	Marianas Health
115	MAI, Bettina F.N.	TBD*	TBD*
116	MANABAT, Maria Elena P.	TBD*	TBD*
117	MANALO, Jaybriana Marie B.	Clerk Trainee	DOF-Revenue & Taxation
118	MARALIT, Jefren P.	Pacific Wellness Center Clerk Trainee	Marianas Health
119	MARALIT, Jirelle P.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	CUC-Power Division
120	MARATITA, Anabeata Maria C.	TBD*	TBD*
121	MARATITA, Donnina Elisa C.	TBD*	TBD*
122	MENCHOR, Mackson M.	Guest Service Officer Trainee	Hyatt Regency Saipan-Communication Center
123	METTAO, Jesse Ray O.	Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Human Resources
124	METTAO, Jim Gary O.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	Celnaps Enterprises
125	MEYERS, Nicole Q.	Guest Service Officer Trainee	Hyatt Regency Saipan-Reservation
126	MICHAEL, James K.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	Northern Marianas College
127	MONI, Charity R.	Spaness Attendant Trainee	Saipan World Resort
128	MOSES, Brandon Lee S.	Personnel Clerk Trainee	CSC-Office of Personnel Management
129	MUNA, Angela G.	TBD*	TBD*
130	MUNA, Camille Heloann G.	TBD*	TBD*
131	MUNA, Christy Ann G.	Field Technician Trainee	DLNR-DOA CNMI Forestry
132	MUNA, Jennica Jazell I.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	Office of the Public Defender
133	NEMEK, Brandon	TBD*	TBD*
134	NGIRACHELIONG, Delsita I.	Parole Officer Aide Trainee	Board of Parole
135	NGIRAROIS, Troy	Housekeeping Attendant Trainee	Fiesta Resort & Spa
136	NIKITI, Teipo A,	TBD*	TBD*
137	NITEY, Hefer E.	Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Radiology
138	NOBLE, Maria Abigail T.	Guest Services Agent Trainee	Kanoa Resort Saipan
139	NOBLE, Maria Angelica T.	Filing Clerk Trainee	Bank of Saipan
140	OCAYA, Jacquelyn P.	Eligibility Worker Trainee	CHCC-Billing Office
141	OCAYA, Jordan Ace P.	Clerk Trainee	Hyatt Regency Saipan-Materials
142	OKARURU, Jerica Emelyn E.	TBD*	TBD*
143	OMAR, Damian J.	Scalehouse Attendant Trainee	DPW-Solid Waste Management Division
144	OMAR, Jeremiah Daniel J.	TBD*	TBD*
145	OMELAU, Andruw Antero R.	TBD*	TBD*
146	OMELAU, Martin Herman R.	TBD*	TBD*
147	OMELAU, Sheris Llusch R.	TBD*	TBD*
148	OMENGKAR, Kody Adrian M.	BSO Agent Trainee	Pacific Airport Services
149	OMENGKAR, Kory Adam M.	Baker's Helper Trainee	Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc.
150	ONOPWY, Brandy	Clerk Trainee	DOF-Revenue & Taxation
151	OSCAR, Nancy A.	F&B Clerk Trainee	Fiesta Resort & Spa
152	OSIAS, April Rose U.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	Coral Ocean Golf Resort
153	PALATTAO, Allison Sheena G.	Baker's Helper Trainee	Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc.
154	PALEMAI, Triana Pelma I.	Waitress Trainee	Revolving Restaurant 360
155	PANGELINAN, Jonisha Alexis K.	TBD*	TBD*
156	PANGELINAN, Lordina Gineanne H.	Office Clerk Trainee	Office of Management & Budget
157	PANGELINAN, Nathaniel Anthony	Eligibility Worker Trainee	CHCC-Billing Office
158	PAUL, Julius M.	Kitchen Helper Trainee	Revolving Restaurant 360
159	PETER, Mfred	Office Clerk Trainee	DPW-Administrative Services Division
160	PINEDA, Sean Bennett D.	Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Public Health Program
161	QUICHOCHO, Norman Martin A.	TBD*	TBD*
162	QUILALA, Jeze May H.	Home Care Clerk Trainee	Marianas Health
163	QUIMSON, Shiela Marie E.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	CUC-Legal Counsel
164	RAY, Greyleen	Clerk Trainee	DOF-Revenue & Taxation
165	REBUENOG, Lance Bernard H.	Office Clerk Trainee	DPL-Real Estate Division
166	REGINIO, Celso M. Jr.	Family Clinic Clerk Trainee	Marianas Health
167	REGINIO, Daniella Marie M.	Office Clerk Trainee	DPW-Technical Services Division
168	RELEVANTE, Rolliem A.	TBD*	TBD*
169	RELEVANTE, Tins Meirull	TBD*	TBD*
170	RENGIIL, Peterson K. Ray	Delivery Driver Helper	JG Sablan Water & Ice, Inc.
171	REYES, Anthony Angel C. Jr.	TBD*	TBD*
172	REYES, Jerome V. Jr.	Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Physical Therapy
173	RIOS, David Junior E.	Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Public Health Program
174	RIOS, Esteana A.	Merchandiser Associate Trainee	Western Sales Trading Company
175	RIOS, Shaina Grace	Terminal Documentation Clerk	Saipan Stevedore Company, Inc.
176	RIUNGEL, Ricky Joe N.	Merchandiser Associate Trainee	Western Sales Trading Company
177	ROBERT, Velma Ann S.	Baker's Helper Trainee	Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc.
178	ROBERT, Vincent Bert	Library Assistant Trainee	Joeten Kiyu Public Library
179	RUDOLPH, Hansan-Sam T.	Purchasing Trainee	Saipan World Resort
180	SABLAN, Ryan Noel D.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	Northern Marianas College
181	SABLAN, Victoria Tinag D.	Office Clerk Trainee	DOL-Employment Services Division
182	SABULAO, Kinaling Rose L.	TBD*	TBD*
183	SACHUO, Demson M.	TBD*	TBD*
184	SAN NICOLAS, Daniel Adrian A.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	Northern Marianas College
185	SANTOS, Angel T.	Tour Guide Assistant Trainee	Let's Go Tour Company
186	SANTOS, Dean Anthony Jr. M.	Bellhop Trainee	Saipan World Resort
187	SANTOS, Patrick Jerome Jr. W.	TBD*	TBD*
188	SANTOS, Peter Jason B.	Field Technician Trainee	DLNR-DOA CNMI Forestry
189	SASAMOTO, Zachary Jaime B.	TBD*	TBD*
190	SEBAKLIM, Laurina Ann D.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	Northern Marianas College
191	SEKOOL, Jerica Jersica P.	TBD*	TBD*
192	SEKOOL, Jersey P.	Iceplant Helper Trainee	JG Sablan Water & Ice, Inc.
193	SEMAN, Mildred Joanna O.	TBD*	TBD*
194	SIECH, N-nes	Accounting Trainee	Marianas Health
195	SINOUNOU, Francisco J.	Merchandising Assistant Trainee	D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd
196	SUDA, Corina Mae	Account Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Collection Office
197	TAITANO, Shanalyn N.	Field Technician Trainee	DLNR-DOA CNMI Forestry
198	TAMAN, Derek S.	Personnel Clerk Trainee	CSC-Office of Personnel Management
199	TAMAN, Jason S.	Account Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Collection Office
200	TAMBIGA, Tichina Junemar S.	Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Public Health Program
201	TAULE, Christian William O.	Housekeeping Attendant Trainee	Century Hotel
202	TEDTAOTAO, Juanna Josefina	TBD*	TBD*
203	TEREYAMA, Fermina C.	Office Clerk Trainee	Board of Parole
204	THEODORE, Kiana M.	Sales Merchandiser Trainee	Transpacific International, Inc-Coca Cola
205	THEY, Finson O.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	CUC-Payroll
206	THEY, Itheyvin O.	Clerk Trainee	DOF-Revenue & Taxation
207	TIPINGENI, Joeann S.	Parole Officer Aide Trainee	Board of Parole
208	TIPINGENI, Joethy Ystor CH.	TBD*	TBD*
209	TOMEI, Rodlee O.	Delivery Driver Helper	JG Sablan Water & Ice, Inc.
210	TOMEI, Romney O.	Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Hospital Administration
211	UMBAY, Jasmine R.	HR Clerk Trainee	Marianas Health
212	VINUYA, Marie Janie A.	Clerk Trainee	CHCC-Executive Secretary
213	WABOL, Sirena Schupi R.	Clerk Trainee	DOF-Revenue & Taxation
214	WEILBACHER, Germaine Andrea	Personnel Clerk Trainee	CSC-Office of Personnel Management
215	WEILBACHER, Jasmine Brianne	Sales Representative Trainee	MARPAC
216	WOL, Isabel Kayna T.	Tour Guide Assistant Trainee	Let's Go Tour Company
217	YUGUMANG, Jared	File Clerk Trainee	Bank of Saipan

TBD*-To be determined at a later time. Job Title and Placement will be provided at the Orientation.
Orientation and Work Readiness Workshop for Saipan Qualifiers is on Friday, July 10, 2015 at the Multi-Purpose Center from 8:00am-5:00pm.

TINIAN QUALIFIER

1	ALDAN, Ha'ani K.	Librarian Aide Trainee	Tinian Elementary School
2	ALDAN, Perry M.	Stocker Trainee	Tinian ACE Hardware
3	ATALIG, Themica Moesha	Cashier Trainee	Tinian ACE Hardware
4	BALAGTAS, Roselynn G.	Telephone Operator Trainee	Tinian Dynasty
5	BARCINAS, Kenya Jade A.	Restaurant Receptionist Trainee	Tinian Dynasty
6	BARCINAS, Shainna Jean A.	Telephone Operator Trainee	Tinian Dynasty
7	BORJA, Billy Dean M.	Stocker Trainee	Tinian ACE Hardware
8	CABRERA, Anthony E. Jr.	Stocker Trainee	Tinian ACE Hardware
9	CABRERA, Elsa Lyn A.	TBD*	TBD*
10	CABRERA, John Jerick T.	Bell Attendant Trainee	Tinian Dynasty
11	CABRERA, Phillip A.	Office Assistant Trainee	Tinian JR/SR High School
12	CRUZ, Shawn Michael P.	TBD*	TBD*
13	DELA CRUZ, Aila Dina M.	Restaurant Receptionist Trainee	Tinian Dynasty
14	DELA CRUZ, Jesus Francisco SN	Housekeeping Attendant Trainee for Public Area	Tinian Dynasty
15	DELA CRUZ, Manel Joseph Jr.	Stocker Trainee	Tinian ACE Hardware
16	HOFSCHNEIDER, Edwin Jesus M.	TBD*	TBD*
17	HOFSCHNEIDER, Hannah Rose M.	TBD*	TBD*
18	MAITAS, Kenjiroho B.	TBD*	TBD*
19	MANGLONA, Zachary Peter P.	TBD*	TBD*
20	MANIBUSAN, Cumi Jake DLR	TBD*	TBD*
21	MANIBUSAN, Floicia DLR.	TBD*	TBD*
22	MARATITA, Keanalyn Kelsey A.	Office Assistant Trainee	Tinian JR/SR High School
23	MARATITA, Victoria Susana A.	Librarian Aide Trainee	Tinian Elementary School
24	PANGELINAN, Joanna M.	Human Resources Clerk Trainee	Tinian Dynasty
25	PUA, Drake Dominic M.	TBD*	TBD*
26	SAN NICOLAS, Corey Jess A.	Office Assistant Trainee	Tinian JR/SR High School
27	SAN NICOLAS, Stefan Fritz DLC	Front Office Clerk Trainee	Tinian Elementary School
28	TAITANO, Amisha Ann B.	TBD*	TBD*
29	TAITANO, Peter David B.	TBD*	TBD*
30	TAITANO, Robeen Jane B.	TBD*	TBD*
31	UNTALAN, Kenneth B.	TBD*	TBD*

Orientation & Work Readiness Workshop is on Thursday, July 09, 2015 at the Northern Marianas College (NMC)-Instructional Site Room: D from 8am-4pm.

TBD*-To be determined at a later time. Job Title and Placement will be provided at the Orientation.

ROTA QUALIFIER

1	APATANG, Deann Donica H.	Administrative Clerk Trainee	DPS-Administration
2	APATANG, Devin Alfred H.	Mechanic Helper Trainee	Department of Public Works
3	BARCINAS, Jeb S.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
4	BARCINAS, John S. Jr.	Ground Maintenance Helper Trainee	DCCA-Office on Aging
5	BORJA, Anika Hope A.	Administrative Clerk Trainee	DPS-Administration
6	CABRERA, Luraina Dee	Bookkeeper Trainee	Kin & Rit Incorporated
7	HIZON, Raccine Gerard R.	Firefighter Trainee	DFEMS-Rota
8	HOCOG, Taylor Ann O.	Customs Trainee	DOF-Division of Customs
9	LIZAMA, Austin Dre A.	RMC Summer Trainee	Office of the 15th Municipal Council
10	LIZAMA, Daniel R.	Ground Maintenance Helper Trainee	DCCA-Office on Aging
11	LIZAMA, Ignacio Jr. II	Stock Clerk Trainee	Lucky Store
12	LIZAMA, Pauline Benett R.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	DCCA-Office of the Resident Director
13	LIZAMA, Va'ina A.	Police Officer Trainee	DPS-Division of Police
14	MANALANG, Catherine L.	Receptionist Trainee	DOF-Administration Section
15	MANGLONA, Brendon A.	Firefighter Trainee	DFEMS-Rota
16	MANGLONA, Randall A.	Police Officer Trainee	DPS-Division of Police
17	MANGLONA, Roman M. III	Police Officer Trainee	DPS-Division of Police
18	MANGLONA, Vincent Thomas M.	Stock Clerk Trainee	Lucky Two Mart
19	MASGA, Darlene P.	Clerk Trainee	Department of Public Works
20	MASGA, Ronierick S.	Administrative Assistant Trainee	DCCA-Office of the Resident Director
21	OGO, Fabian B. Jr.	Mechanic Helper Trainee	Department of Public Works
22	QUITUGUA, Noah Cole B.	Firefighter Trainee	DFEMS-Rota
23	RANGAMAR, Dannuell P.	Ground Maintenance Helper Trainee	DCCA-Office on Aging
24	RANGAMAR, Darien P.	Stock Clerk Trainee	Lucky Two Mart
25	TAIMANAO, Palanga Tiara B.	Cashier Trainee	Lucky Store

Orientation & Work Readiness Workshop is on Wednesday, July 08, 2015 at the Northern Marianas College (NMC)-Instructional Site Room: A1 from 8am-4pm.

Opinion

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER
AP The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Religious objections to civil laws have a curious history

The "sincere religious beliefs" objections to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage in all 50 states are getting some traction, particularly in Texas, Alabama and Louisiana. By a not-so-amazing coincidence, these are among the 11 states where there is an unfortunate history of sincere religious objections to previous laws of the land.

The 13th Amendment for one, the one that abolished slavery.

It seems impossible to think now, but throughout the South, and from some pulpits in the North, before and after the Civil War, churches vigorously defended slavery as rooted in the Bible.

In "God's Almost Chosen Peoples: A Religious History of the American Civil War," the historian George C. Rable of the University of Alabama writes:

"Preachers talked about a spiritual and cultural war between true Christianity and Yankee infidelity. Indeed, according to one Georgia Baptist editor, it was northern 'opposition to plain Biblical teachings, which has dissolved our once glorious Union.' And just as some northern ministers viewed the secession crisis as a millennial opportunity to proclaim liberty to the captives, so southern Christians maintained that the perfection of a slaveholding society would ultimately lead to what a Georgia woman called 'the final and universal spread of a Gospel civilization.' "

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal blasted the court's decision, saying "Marriage between a man and a woman was established by God, and no earthly court can alter that."

He went on to predict "an all-out assault against the religious freedom rights of Christians who disagree with this decision."

Jindal calls himself an "evangelical Catholic," but there are Catholics who disagree with him, just as there are innumerable interpretations of Christ's teachings among Protestant faiths. Fundamentalist Muslims (and some fundamentalist Christians) have been known to commit terrible atrocities because of sincerely held religious beliefs.

The First Amendment prohibits religious beliefs, however well- or evil-intentioned, from governing the public sphere. Ministers don't have to officiate at gay weddings, though some have and will. Judges and county clerks do.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a scholar who knew, and borrowed from, the sermons of the abolitionist preacher Theodore Parker. In 1853, he preached:

"Look at the facts of the world. You see a continual and progressive triumph of the right. I do not pretend to understand the moral universe, the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways. I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight; I can divine it by conscience. But from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice.

"Things refuse to be mismanaged long."

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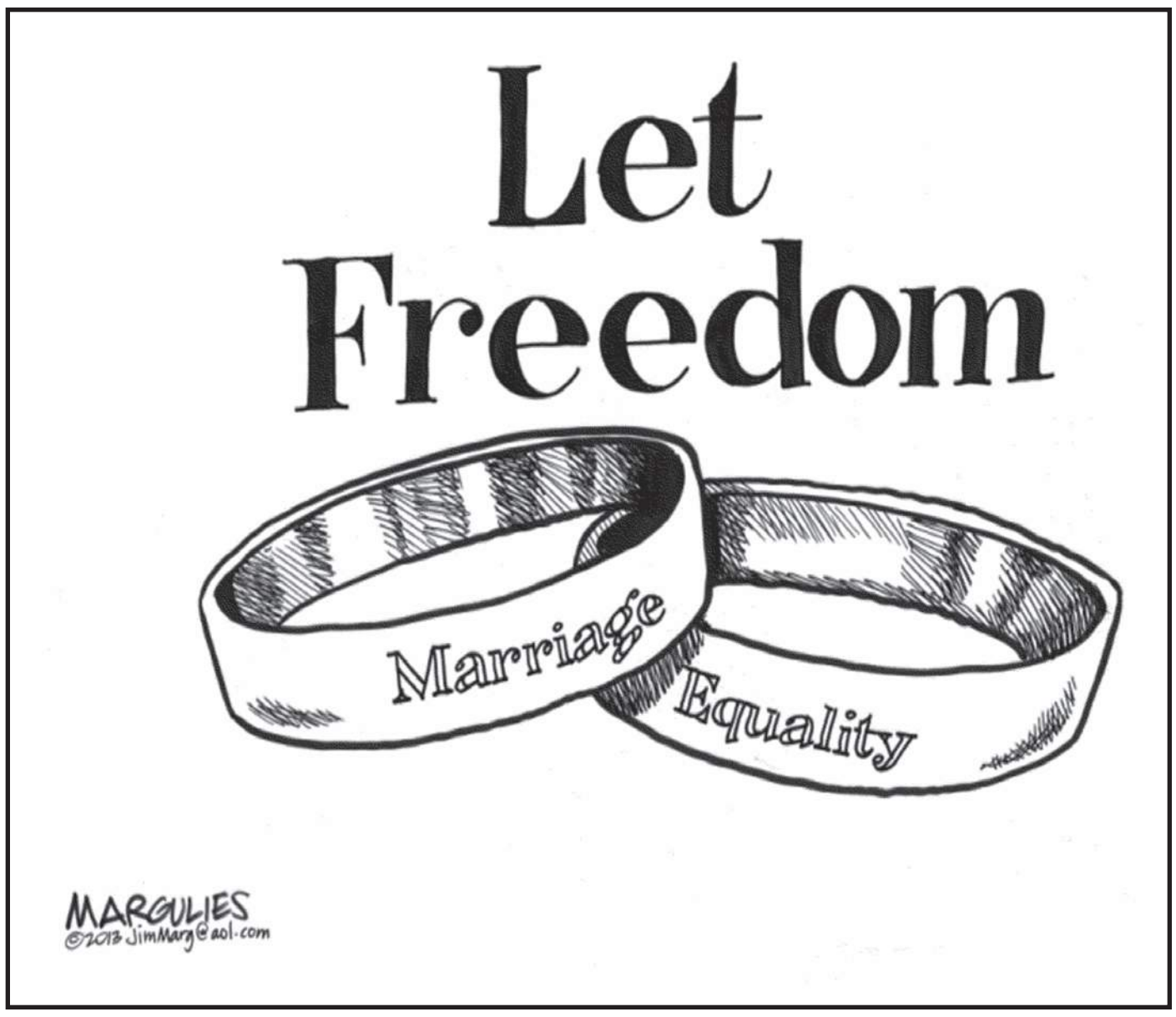
Love thy planet: Pope Francis' bully pulpit on climate change

Pope Francis, in his recent encyclical "Laudato Si," aligned himself with the overwhelming scientific consensus on man-made climate change, affirming its reality and calling for immediate action to ease its effects. His remarks underscore the need for world leaders to face up to this grave challenge and for all humans to be more responsible stewards of Earth.

See LOVE on Page 11



Obama's hot streak, American greatness worth celebrating this Fourth of July

By ANN MCFEATTERS
Tribune News Service

Ann McFeatters is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.

WASHINGTON—Wow! Is President Obama on a roll or what! Even without knowing the latest news, you can tell something is up by the glowering super conservatives and the grinning ultra-liberals. The rest of us are just watching in amazement at what seems like a kaleidoscope of change.

And, now, relations with Cuba! OK, no more exclamation points. But Obama is sending Secretary of State John Kerry on the first diplomatic mission to Cuba since 1945. For the first time since 1961 Cuba will have a U.S. embassy.

In rapid succession, we have seen the Supreme Court rule in favor of same-sex marriage equality, supported by Obama, and uphold the legality of Obama's signature Affordable Care Act.

One hundred and fifty years after the Civil War, the Confederate battle flag, symbolic of racism and rebellion against the United States, is finally ceasing to be flown over public buildings.

Obama has moved to give millions of workers, who sometimes work 90 hours a week without overtime, a shot at being paid fairly. It's not perfect and some unscrupulous employers may simply cut hours and spread the work around underpaid employees. But it is a start and national recognition that millions of Americans have been shafted at the workplace while business profits are at historic highs.

In part because of worker demonstrations and Obama's demand for a higher minimum wage, more cities and states are acting to raise wages.

Obama is trying hard to keep Iran from getting nuclear weapons. It may not be possible, but naysayers to his plan simply do not understand realpolitik in today's complicated world. No longer can the U.S. dictate outcomes to diplomatic crises.

No longer can the U.S. send troops and end chaos and civil war, such as in Syria. Some days it seems we have learned nothing from the lives lost and ruined in Iraq and Afghanistan and the trillion dollars lost to our economy, money that we desperately needed to rebuild our infrastructure and improve our schools. Obama ended those wars, the longest in our history.

Too many forget that when Obama became president, the nation was deep in recession and headed for all-out depression. You may well argue with the means he used, but there is no doubt we dodged what could easily have turned into an economic calamity.

Everyone agrees our immigration system is broken and that this is hurting millions of families. For decades Congress has been unable to agree on any solutions. Obama is using his executive authority to tell more than 4 million immigrants that if they have been here at least five years, can pass a background check and pay their taxes, they have a shot at temporarily staying in this country without fear of being deported.

Obama is not a great president. And it is undeniable we tend to blame our political leaders for our troubles even though those troubles are getting more complicated.

But this president does not deserve the passionate hatred, condescension and derision poured upon him by millions of Americans. He has not delivered on many of the promises he made, notably making Washington work again. It's probably true that in this climate nobody could do that.

Certainly not the nation's first black president whom Republican leaders vowed to block at every turn — beginning when he had barely been inaugurated.

Amid the happy celebrations of the birth of the nation this month, Americans are rightly worried about their future in a chaotic world. But it is not true that the country is not improving; we are. It is not true that our promise has been tarnished; we remain the hope of the world.

We are a work in progress. And that's how it should be. We didn't peak after the Revolutionary War or World War II. We make mistakes, which we did when we had slaves. When we went to war in Iraq. When we treated immigrants as less than human. Eventually, we learn from them.

When the president has a good week or two, we should not be dismayed. We should rejoice. For 18 more months he's the only president we have.

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Same-sex ruling reflects modern society's 'pursuit of happiness' on steroids, and it's not good

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News.

I've been doing a lot of soul searching this week, trying to figure out why the legalization of same-sex marriage has administered such an emotional sucker punch to my solar plexus. Some would say it's because I'm a bigot, and a bigot is never ready for the sea change that annihilates her bigoted world view. Others, including my caring and cautionary friends, have said that they understand how difficult it must be to see my concept of constitutional integrity ignored and displaced by that branch of government that represents the pinnacle of my profession, my secular Vatican, as it were.

I suppose if you think that gay marriage is a fundamental right, my opposition to Anthony Kennedy's sweeping and historical (and to some extent hysterical) opinion could fit both bills, but that doesn't really answer why I feel like a stranger in my own skin today. After thinking, and reading, and watching, and praying, and thinking some more, I finally arrived at the reason for my existential angst:

Humility has finally met its Waterloo.

I don't mean that word in its narrowest sense, the one where we shrink from any acknowledgement of our accomplishments and eschew legitimate pride in success. I'm not talking about those people who assume a false sense of abnegation, only to appear even better in the eyes of the public. I'm not really talking about personal humility at all.

What I'm referring to is this collective sense that people are entitled to plumb the infinite possibilities that life has to offer simply because we want them, all of them, and that to prevent us from seeking them is a violation of our civil, and human, rights. It's the "pursuit of happiness" principle on steroids.

We are no longer willing to accept that there are some things that, even though we can do them, should remain untouched. I wrote about this a decade ago when I talked about the designer baby craze where parents were engaged in choosing the eye color, gender, number and musical proclivities of their as yet un-conceived children. It wasn't an attack on assisted reproduction or in vitro fertilization, because it is a noble and godly effort to bring a child into the loving arms of a mother and father. It was a direct hit on the arrogance of people, including single by choice mothers, who wanted a child as an accessory to their incomplete emotional wardrobes and were intent on designing that child to specifications.

Well, the ship carrying my indignation sailed years ago, and it could be seen circling the horizon under a rainbow sky this past week. Because the idea that we are not limited by our biology and can indeed redefine our identities (thank you, Caitlyn) has taken such root in this western society that now we scoff at those who think procreation is of any true importance to the meaning of marriage. We don't need an ovary and testicles any longer, because technology has rid us of those annoying limitations on pleasure and potential.

And so, if we don't need a man and a woman to create life any longer, we can just dispense with the fiction of marriage as the primary guarantee that society will self-perpetuate. Yes, in the past, children were born out of wedlock and marriage was incidental to their creation, but it was never incidental to their welfare. Now, thanks to a Supreme Court decision that springs from the fertile minds of five justices and bursts forth like a heavily-perfumed judicial flower, it is.

Supporters of same sex marriage push back and say that it is wrong to deprive people who love each other of their right to "be happy." If you look at it that way, through the rainbow screen on your Facebook profile picture, that makes a lot of sense. But being happy at the expense of others was not what the framers meant when they talked about that cherished pursuit in the Declaration of Independence. And make no mistake that this ruling is coming at the expense of others.

As many have already noted, it could come at the expense of those who follow a creed that still, touchingly, venerates the union of man and woman. But even beyond the threat to religious freedom, it comes at the expense of individual liberty.

You will be shaking your head at that one and tweeting out comments to #SheIsWacked. But the truth is that when we deliberately twist the laws to satisfy a social movement, when we turn our constitutional integrity into food for some culture war beast, we have demeaned and diminished those who do not share that sweeping view of entitlement.

And that's what I mean about losing our humility. As a nation, our greatness has always derived from two things, the sense that our capabilities are infinite and the concomitant wisdom to impose limitations on that Promethean fire.

Now, we have snatched a constitutional right from a void, untethered to legitimate precedent (no, Loving v. Virginia isn't controlling if you consider its context) and common sense. There will be lawsuits, and the name-calling has already begun for those not yet on board with the same-sex juggernaut.

We have upended the social structures so that one group can continue to pursue its happiness while others try and find solid ground in the whirlwind.

That explains my nausea.

Stand firm on nuke inspections

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

President Obama warned Iran's ayatollahs on Tuesday that he was ready to walk away from a nuclear deal if Tehran won't agree to tough measures to prevent cheating. Let's hope he means what he says.

Negotiators have already extended the deadline from June 30 to July 7. The administration should push it back further if Tehran won't give inspectors adequate access or clear up questions about previous military dimensions of Iran's nuclear program.

"Given past behavior on the part of Iran," said the president, verification can't "be a few inspectors wandering around every once in a while." Rather, he said, there's "going to have to be a serious, rigorous verification mechanism. That, I think, is going to be the test as to whether we get a deal or not."

So far Iran has been unwilling to meet that test.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, recently ruled out inspection of Iranian military sites, where much of the nuclear work has been conducted, or interviews with nuclear scientists. The ayatollah's red lines walk back provisions that negotiators thought were already agreed to. In the meantime, Yukiya Amano, head of the United Nations nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, is meeting this week with top Iranian officials in Tehran, who are still stonewalling on questions the IAEA submitted in 2013.

If those questions aren't answered and if Iran won't agree to tough, enforceable verification, then U.S. negotiators should play hardball. A further deadline delay (or even a break in talks) doesn't mean negotiations are over. By demonstrating that the president means what he says about adequate verification, a break in talks may offer the only hope of an acceptable deal.

For one thing, it may convince the ayatollahs that the president has some red lines he will not abandon. Until now, the major concessions have come from the United States and its P5+1 negotiating partners (the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council plus Germany). The P5+1 abandoned early efforts to limit Iran's nuclear activities to what was required for a peaceful energy program. Instead, Tehran has been permitted to maintain its current program, equipment, and facilities, under temporary limits, restrictions, and safeguards _ many of which will expire in 10 to 15 years.

This deal would indeed inhibit Tehran from acquiring means and materiel for a bomb for at least a decade and maybe longer, and would make it difficult for the Iranians to "sneak out" or "break out" in less than a year. But given Iran's history of secret programs, the deal is worthless without tight inspection measures. And it must also contain clear provisions to reinstate sanctions if Iran cheats—provisions that can't be vetoed by Russia, China, or Iran.

So far the ayatollahs seem to believe that Obama will cave on verification because he wants the deal so intensely. But a bad deal would tarnish Obama's legacy, and the president appears to get it. He also knows the U.S. public isn't clamoring for an agreement, about which Congress is leery.

Indeed, it is Tehran that is badly in need of a deal.

Iran is "hemorrhaging hundreds of billions because of sanctions and tens of billions because of the drop in oil prices," points out the Carnegie Endowment's Karim Sadjadpour, one of the shrewdest U.S. experts on Iran. "If this deal is signed or isn't signed, I think it's not going to really affect the finances of most Americans, whereas in Iran the entire nation is waiting on the edge of its seat for this deal to happen."

In other words, the deal is an economic necessity for the Iranian people, but a conundrum for Khamenei, whose ideology calls for resisting the Great Satan. Khamenei is trying "to reconcile the economic imperatives of the nation with the political imperatives of the hardline elite," says Sadjadpour, who has written extensively on the supreme leader.

If Obama sticks to his red lines, Khamenei will have to choose.

Even if the Iranian leader balks, the negotiations game isn't over. The ayatollah may believe the P5+1 will blame the United States if the talks halt and will break ranks on sanctions. But this isn't likely to be the case.

"France, the U.K., Germany, and even Russia and China have seen that the Obama administration and Secretary (John) Kerry have really been committed to trying to resolve this issue diplomatically," says Sadjadpour. So the P5+1 is likely to stick together and the sanctions are likely to hold.

Nor is Iran likely to rush to ramp up its nuclear program if the talks break down. "I don't see them putting their foot on the gas," says Sadjadpour, "because if they do, that is going to trigger additional sanctions from the United States. And then they will lose the blame game, right?"

If there is no accord by the new deadline, the more likely result will be a stalemate that disappoints the Iranian people and forces Khamenei to reconsider. But whether or not that is the case, something has to give in Tehran before the talks can be concluded. As Obama made clear—and hopefully he meant it—without rigorous verification there cannot be a deal.

LOVE

From Page 10

In his strongly worded document, Pope Francis said the rich have polluted their way to prosperity at the expense of the poor. Global warming, he noted, has been primarily driven by carbon emissions in high-income countries, while its consequences—extreme weather events, diminished food supplies and political instability—will be felt most in poor countries. Nations must develop a plan of action to address the problem, he said, and advance a "bold cultural revolution" to change how people interact with nature.

To Pope Francis, these ills are part of a "throwaway culture" that leaves people and the environment behind in the name of technological progress, unbridled consumerism and personal desires.

The pope's stand won him no friends on the right. Republican presidential candidates Jeb Bush and Rick Santorum, among others, urged him to focus on individual moral guidance and leave the political matters to—well, people like them.

Even to the pope's supporters, his attacks on capitalism may seem excessive. His observations on technology and social organization sometimes are reminiscent of Cold War-era doomsday prophecy.

But no one should expect Pope Francis, or any other individual, to have all the answers. With this encyclical, he has brought greater attention to the danger that global warming poses to humanity and called on people to respect and sustain the planet they share.

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The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲86° ▼76°

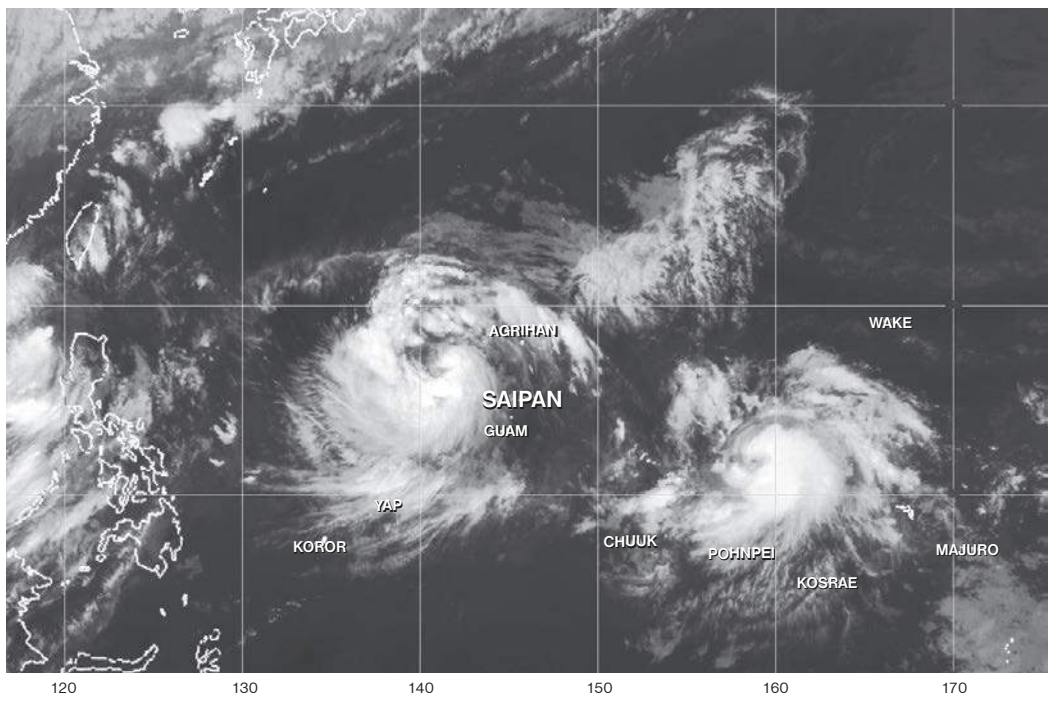
WEDNESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.
▲87° ▼77°

THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼77°

FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲86° ▼77°

SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲85° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JULY 6, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Chan-hom (09W) is centered 285 miles northwest of Guam near 17N142E moving north-northwest at 9 mph with maximum sustained winds of 65 mph. Numerous heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen near the center between 13N and 19N from 137E to 143E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present farther from the center near yap within 90 miles of a line from 11N135E to 10N141E to 9N147E and near the far northern CNMI within 60 miles of a line from 21N139E to 21N145E to 16N150E. For more information on Tropical Storm Chan-hom, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Tropical Storm Nangka (11W) is centered 335 miles north of Pohnpei at 12N159E moving west-northwest at 14 mph with maximum sustained winds of 70 mph. Numerous heavy showers and a few thunderstorms are found between 10N and 13N from 158E to 162E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present farther from the center between 7N and 17N from 154E to 167E. For more information on Tropical Storm Nangka, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN33 PGTW and advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ33 PGUM. Low-level convergence is causing scattered showers southeast of Majuro south of a line from 3N170E to 11N180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Palau	Cloudy	▲87	▼80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼78
Majuro	Cloudy	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲59	▼45
Beijing	Sunny	▲93	▼68
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼76
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼75
London	Rain	▲73	▼57
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼61
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼42
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲86	▼76
Osaka	Showers	▲78	▼71
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼58
Pusan	Rain	▲71	▼67
Rome	Sunny	▲92	▼75
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲95	▼58
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼56
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲90	▼66
Tokyo	Showers	▲76	▼69
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲93	▼76

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:46 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
7:00 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
12:01 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
6:47 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Wednesday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:52 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:09 PM	10:39 AM
Wednesday	11:56 PM	11:36 AM
Thursday		12:33 AM
Friday	12:43 AM	1:30 PM
Saturday	1:31 AM	2:26 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 2, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/701	2:25am	11:05am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/701	3:20am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/721	2:25am	11:50am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:20am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ6053	7:55pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/6053	12:15pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/6053	1:10pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Apatang swears in five-member SHEFA board

JAYSON CAMACHO

From left, Saipan Mayor's Office special assistant Henry Hofschneider, SHEFA administrator Merissa Rasa, SHEFA board member Ursula Aldan, SHEFA chair Oscar Babauta, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, SHEFA board member Jose Mafnas, SHEFA secretary/treasurer Ray Muna and his wife, and SHEFA vice chair Juan "Shine" Tenorio pose in a group photo after the SHEFA board was sworn in last Thursday.

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mayor David M. Apatang swore in five board members to the Saipan Higher Education Assistance Program last Thursday at the Saipan Mayor's Offic at the Ladera Center in San Jose.

Board members that were sworn in were newly elected board member and now SHEFA chair Oscar Babauta, newly elected board member and secretary/treasurer Ray Muna, vice chair Juan "Shine" Tenorio, Ursula Aldan, and Jose Mafnas.

After being sworn in, Babauta told Apatang they have already elected their board members early Thursday morning in their first board meeting since April 2015.

Also after being sworn in, board members discussed issues that would help the Saipan Mayor's Office and SHEFA work more closely such as moving the SHEFA offices to the Ladera Center next to Apatang's office, working on funding through the local delegation, and other matters.

"We've a lot of visions ahead for our office such as our policies that need to be changed and revisit the solution to address our management and staff. Other details will be discussed in the next board meeting and we hope that Apatang attends," Babauta said.

"I'd like to thank Apatang's office and the former mayors that consistently provided assistance to SHEFA. We can only ask to continue the working relationship and our desire to provide assistance to our students," he added.

Apatang said that he has confidence in SHEFA's newly sworn in board.

"As board members I know they do their best for our students and give them the opportunity to go further. Some of them are returning members. My office is open to the SHEFA board and if they have any assistance they are more than welcome to call us and request assistance," he said.

»Oscar Babauta is new SHEFA chair

"We're ready to help SHEFA relocate near our office," Apatang added.

Babauta said that he and other board members are more than willing to put their best foot forward in upgrading programs for SHEFA.

Century Hotel

Is inviting qualified U.S Citizens
to apply for the following vacant positions

Position: (1) BARTENDER
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent with minimum 2 years work experience in the preparation of mixed cocktails required. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are essential. Able to work flexible hours including evenings and/or weekends

Applications can be obtained and submitted at the Security Office at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than July 10, 2015. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Public Notice

This is to give notice to the Public that **Park, Sun Ha** is no longer the Treasurer and Board of Director of Karis Co., LTD. as of April 20, 2015.

Karis Co., LTD

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Maintenance Manager (1)
Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. Minimum of six (6) years experience in hotel maintenance plus 2 years in supervisory level. Able to supervise, manage and coordinate the activities of mechanics, installers and repairers. Good judgment, decision making skills, and time management skills. Prefer some technical courses. Must know how to read floor plan and electrical diagram. Valid driver's license and reliable transportation. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Front Office Manager (1)
Qualifications: Preferably a college graduate with a Bachelor degree in Hospitality or Tourism Management; a minimum of two years work experience as Front Office Supervisor in a hotel of significant volume. Ability to read, analyze and interpret journals, financial reports and legal documents. Ability to write letters, memorandums or conceptualizing hotel's objectives. Ability to effectively present information to top management and employees, in groups or individually. Ability to speak, write and read in the English language fluently. Fluency in Japanese is an advantage. Ability to calculate figures and amounts such as discounts, commissions, proportions, percentages, area, circumstances, and volume, and analyze such information. Ability to define problems, collect data, establish facts, and draw valid conclusions. Comprehensive knowledge of business management, financial reporting and productivity requirements; Proficient in Microsoft Office program and Fidelio System software. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Electrician (3)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum of five (5) years work experience required. Provide access for future maintenance and avoid unreliable wiring, consistent with verification and electrical codes, and other related duties as assigned. Capable of reading schematic diagram, and electrical symbols, knowledgeable on industrial electricity, circuit breakers, switches and controls. Must to work in a flexible way that allows for changes in assignments and priorities depending upon identified needs of the department. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Landscaping Worker (1)
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 to 3 years previous work experience. Cultivates and cares for ornamental plants and installs floral displays indoor or outdoor settings through performance of any combination of following duties as directed by supervisory personnel. Able to work a variable schedule on occasion including weekends.

Sous Chef (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma; a graduate from independent and vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes or a college degree in appropriate field or equivalent. Must have at least four (4) years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Supervising-chef assistant Supervises and coordinates activities of cooks and other workers engaged in preparing and cooking foodstuffs. Assumes responsibility for kitchen in absence of EXECUTIVE CHEF. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

International Cook (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma; graduate from independent and vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes or a college degree in appropriate field or equivalent. At least three (3) years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Must be able to prepare, season, and cook a wide range of international dishes such as soups, meats, vegetables, salads, entrees, and desserts in the Resort. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Baker (1)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Some previous work-related skill, knowledge or experience preferably in a hotel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Demi Chef (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent, or postsecondary instruction from vocational schools. Minimum of four (4) years work experience as a Demi-Chef preferably in hotel. Comprehensive knowledge of kitchen hygiene practices and occupational health and safety standards is essential. Supervise and coordinates activities of kitchen operation and personnel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Cafeteria Attendant (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma or GED certificate. Little or no previous work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is needed for these occupations. Must facilitate food service. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

A/C Refrigeration Mechanic/Technician (1)
Qualifications: Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration or and associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or two (2) to four (4) years of experience. Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Assistant Maintenance Manager (1)
Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. Minimum of six (6) years experience in hotel maintenance plus 2 years in supervisory level. Valid driver's license and reliable transportation. Preferably some technical courses. Must know how to use Excel and Microsoft Word. Must know how to read floor plan and electrical diagram and understand centralized air-conditioning system. Adheres to OSHA safety standards that are applicable for the safe performance of job. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Powerhouse Mechanic (Power Plant) (1)
Qualifications: Require postsecondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges, and/or associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or 2 to 4 years of experience. Perform routine maintenance or make repairs to mechanical, electrical, or electronic equipment in power plants. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Pool Attendant (1)
Qualifications: High School graduate with at least two (2) years work experience as a Pool Attendant. Knowledgeable on some sports and in organizing group activities. Must be knowledgeable with the use of chemicals for the pool. Certified CPR, First Aid and Lifeguard. Willing to work a variable schedule on occasion, including weekends.

General Maintenance Worker/Repairer (2)
Qualifications: Minimum of two (2) years work experience as a Handyman preferably in a hotel or in a similar large building or complex with central plant. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Possession of a valid driver's license is essential. Perform work involving skills of two or more maintenance craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Income Auditor Supervisor (1)
Qualifications: A bachelor's degree in accounting or a related field. Minimum of five (5) years progressive experience in night audit/income audit operations, preferably in a hotel. Examine and analyze accounting records to determine financial status of establishment and prepare financial reports concerning operating procedures. Must also have experience with inventories to include, but not limited to F&B, Dry goods and Housekeeping cleaning and guest supplies. Willing to work a variable schedule on occasion, including weekends.

Housekeeper (5)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum 6 months work experience preferably in a hotel. Must be able to speak and write in English. Ability to speak basic foreign language is a plus. Good customer service skills are essential. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Tailor/Dressmaker (2)
Qualifications: Minimum of Three (3) years work experience as a dressmaker preferably in a hotel. Must be able to think creatively. Is able to design, make draperies, repair or fit garments. Must have an interest in fashion, color and style. Must have ability to work quickly, accurately and independently in a fast-paced environment. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Housekeeping Supervisor (4)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. A few months to one year of supervisory/managerial capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Preferably some basic knowledge of the hotel industry. Must directly supervise and coordinate work activities of cleaning personnel in the hotel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

IT Tech Support Manager (1)
Qualifications: Any combination of education and training equivalent to possession of a bachelor's degree in computer science, information engineering, computer associates or other related areas. Must have at least five (5) years working experience. Experience in all areas of local and wide area networks management and administration including system configuration, setup, troubleshooting, implementation, and user support. Experience installing and supporting Microsoft server technologies. Working knowledge of local and wide area networks (LAN/WAN), Internet, e-mail systems, telecommunications and data communications, standard operating systems, software packages, and software. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Night Auditor (2)
Qualifications: College Diploma or Equivalent certificate, in a hotel or resort. Must have at least two (2) years experience in hotel internal auditing. Must be willing to work flexible night duty/graveyard schedule, weekends, holidays and extended work hours. Understanding of business processes and work flow design. Strong financial analytical background and must be knowledgeable on Microsoft office applications and other software are essential. Good communication and interpersonal skills are necessary. Also responsible in handling of company general funds. Ability to pay close attention to detail with a high degree of accuracy, adapt to changes in work environment, work as assignments and/or changes in priorities.

Food and Beverage Wait Staff (6)
Qualifications: High school diploma/GED preferred. At least 6 months serving experience required or 6 months current hosting experience. Restaurant and Beverages experience preferred. Proven knowledge of Micros or equivalent computer software and cash check, credit card handling procedures required. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Food and Beverage Wait Staff (Banquet) (2)
Qualifications: High school diploma/GED preferred. At least 5 years experience required in banquet and/or related field. Restaurant and Beverages experience preferred. Proven knowledge of Micros or equivalent computer software and cash check, credit card handling procedures required. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Food and Beverage Supervisor (3)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent or training in vocational schools, related on-the-job experience, or an associate's degree. Minimum two (2) years work experience as F&B supervisor preferably in a hotel. Must be able to directly supervise and coordinate activities of workers engaged in preparing and serving. Strong customer service skills and people oriented. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Guest Services Agent (1)
Qualifications: High School diploma or GED certificate. Must have minimum of 2 years work experience in providing quality customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for service and evaluation of customer satisfaction. Must be able to handle customer complaints with efficiency. Must have multitasking skills, be detailed-oriented, and be able to solve problems in order to effectively deal with internal and external customers. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Cook (1)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent with three (3) years work experience preferably in a hotel. Basic culinary skills and good hygiene knowledge is essential. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Reservations Agent (1)
Qualifications: Preferably high school graduate. Must have minimum two (2) years of experience, in Sales and Marketing or Tourism, and or equivalent years of relevant experience in hotel industry. Know how to operate office equipments like fax/copier machine, telephone, computer (knowledge in Fidelio system is an advantage). Able to handle, arrange the agents or guests needs and complaints efficiently. Must have excellent communications, good quality customer service, and multitasking skills are a must. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than July 14, 2015. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

NPS to do 'Special Resource Study' on Rota, in hopes for national park

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A special resource study will be conducted on Rota whether a national park site could be appropriate on the island, according to War in the Pacific National Historic Park and American Memorial Park superintendent Jim Richardson.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday Richardson said that National Park Services planners will be doing the study and would receive help from park services from Guam and Saipan as well. The study will be done in fiscal year 2016 and must be completed within three years.

"The primary persons compiling the study are NPS planners who have done this at many other sites, and give consistency to the reports," Richardson said.

The planner leading the resource study will be Martha Crusius, program chief for Park Planning and Environmental Compliance at National Park Service, who was on Rota last week along with other NPS staff, according to Richardson.

"The group had been out to Guam for another required internal planning session, and since they had come all this way, took the opportunity to also get a first look in person at the resources and met some of the leaders of Rota who we will be working with on this. Local NPS staff from Guam and Saipan including myself will also assist with this study," Richardson said.

He also said that the studies that will be done must follow a standard system that U.S Congress is used to reviewing. The study will review natural and cultural resources to see if they are "nationally significant" and whether an area represents or includes themes, sites or resources not already adequately represented in the NPS.

"Next it must address if a park on Rota would be "suitable" and next if it would be "feasible". For instance since the U.S. government may not own land in the CNMI, the study will have to address how our compact, constitution, laws and etc. would apply to a national park site. The study will include pulling together previous research and documentation of natural and cultural resources, and will involve significant involvement with the public and local leaders," he said.

Richardson noted that if U.S Congress would decide to make some lands on Rota a National Park site, this designation would certainly bring in more tourists to see and experience these resources. The National Park brand is a strong statement of significance. Most of the jobs and economic gain would come from private investment in businesses that could then be more successful with more tourists.

"Funding for the study comes from the U.S. Congress who gives appropriations to the NPS that include monies to complete studies. The study will begin in fiscal year 2016. Once the study is completed (in 2 to 3 years hopefully), it is presented to Congress. Then Congress decides what to do," Richardson said.

"Since the report will include much public and leadership input, at that point they will know what the people's interests are. The special resources on Rota are already there, and at least in a first look, appear to be largely intact and well cared for. It does look like some of the visitor/tourist resources need an infusion of money to repair or replace for instance non-functioning restrooms," he added.

"As part of December's Defense Authorization Bill, the U.S. Congress directed the NPS to complete a "special resources study" on the island of Rota. Studies like these have been done for many years at the direction of Congress, and other avenues. Less than half of the areas studied, eventually have become a National Park or other designation of the National Park System," Richardson said.

The effort was first pushed by former Rota senator Diego M. Songao serving both in the 13th and 14th CNMI Legislature. Songao, in an earlier interview, said that it was a lot of hard work and is finally being pushed through. The efforts would put Rota on the map and create employment opportunities.

Last December, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (MP-Ind) was finally able to get the law, now Public Law 113-291, authorizing a "special resource study" of Rota enacted. In his E-newsletter this week, Sablan stated that Richardson and a team of NPS planners met with Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig and other local officials and toured the Taga Quarry and Mochong and Maya latte sites, as well as some of the natural habitats so special on Rota.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Immigration Services officer Shelia Kelty, and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang pose with 10 of the newest U.S. citizens who took their oath Thursday in federal court.

10 take oath as newest US citizens

Ten persons took their oath on Thursday in federal court as the newest U.S. citizens.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang served as the guest speaker at the naturalization ceremony.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona conducted the ceremony in conjunction with the Independence Day celebration.

Immigration Services officer Shelia Kelty presented the new citizens, who are from the Philippines and China.

After Manglona granted Kelty's motion to accept the new citizens, the 10 took oath of allegiance and pledge of allegiance to the U.S.

The newest citizens are Clairta Lim So, Marietta Valentin Simondac, Ritzie Alcantara Ada, Cesar Anas Alas As, Lanquiang Li Barcinas, Josefina Bayani Espinosa, Kuma Xiong Lee, Jesus Manglicmot Marfil, Leonor Vicente Marfil, and Tita Pano Roberts. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

HSC-25 rescues lost hikers in Guam

ASAN, Guam—Sailors from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 conducted a search-and-rescue (SAR) operation and recovered five hikers who went missing July 4.

The rescue was a collaborative effort between the Navy, Coast Guard, Guam Fire Department and Guam Police Department.

HSC-25 received a request from U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam at approximately 7:30pm for assistance in searching for five missing hikers in the vicinity of Tarzan Falls. A Navy MH-60S helicopter was launched from Andersen Air Force Base at approximately 10:17 p.m.

The crew arrived on scene at 10:28pm and immediately commenced searching. They located the hikers at 11:15pm. The hikers were then transported to U.S. Naval Hospital Guam for treatment.

During the search, Guam was experiencing adverse weather conditions as a result of Tropical Storm Chan-Hom, which was tracking near the island.

"The Independence Day SAR was an illustration of how beneficial it is to have a strong and willing relationship between multiple search units," said Lt. jg Walter "Wally" McGann, who was the co-pilot during the rescue. "Knowing when and how to use each other's resources can lead to conducting an effective search. Their ability to execute a coordinated effort in demanding conditions was vital to mission accomplishment."

HSC-25 is the Navy's only forward-deployed MH-60S expeditionary squadron. As a part of Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Pacific, it provides an armed helicopter capability for U.S. 7th Fleet in support of logistics, search and rescue and humanitarian assistance missions. HSC-25 is also the only squadron that maintains a 24-hour search-and-rescue and medical evacuation alert posture, directly supporting the U.S. Coast Guard and Joint Region Marianas. ***(PR)***

Air Force to conduct training at FDM, WA-517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- July 7 from 9am to 7pm
- July 8 from 10am to 5pm
- July 9 from 7pm to 11:55pm

The Air Force will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 July 9 from 7pm to 11:55pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the areas during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. ***(PR)***

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
MUNICIPALITY OF SAIPAN/SEIPEL
UNITED STATES NOVEMBER 4, 1986

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We can't wait to see it !

Deadline for applications: July 10, 2015

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Business

Greece still cash-starved after decisive 'no' bailout vote

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greeks awoke Monday to the stark reality of the country's accelerating crisis—shuttered banks and ATMs with little cash—hours after they voted resoundingly to reject more austerity measures in exchange for another bailout.

The results—61 percent voted "no," compared with 39 percent for "yes"—left the bankrupt country's future in the European Union and its euro currency uncertain.

The margin of victory for "no" was far wider than expected. But as celebrations died down early Monday, Greece entered a second week of severe restrictions on financial transactions and faced the prospect of even limited amounts of cash drying out, with no prospect of an immediate infusion. Greece imposed the restrictions to stem a bank run after the vote was called and its bailout program expired.

Besieged by a prolonged recession, high unemployment and banks dangerously low on capital, Greece defaulted on an International Monetary Fund loan repayment last week, becoming the first developed nation to do so. Now some analysts wonder if Greece is so starved of cash that it could be forced to start issuing its own currency and become the first country to leave the 19-member eurozone, established in 1999.

AP

A supporter of the No vote waves a Greek flag in front of the parliament after the results of the referendum at Syntagma square in Athens, Sunday, July 5, 2015.

Asian markets mostly fell Monday, as economists said the markets were not expecting such a decisive "no" vote and that could send stocks downward.

The European Central Bank's governing council was not expected to provide more liquidity assistance to Greek banks Monday. The assistance, now at about 90 billion euros, has been maintained but not increased in past days, leaving the country's financial system in a stranglehold. Without an increase, Greeks probably will not be able to withdraw even the meager 60 euros ($67) allocated per day.

That will make it difficult for Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras to keep his pledge, expressed on TV and on his twitter account, that Greece's "immediate priority is to restore our banking system's functioning & economic stability" or for banks to re-open Tuesday, as scheduled.

After Tsipras called for the referendum, negotiations on a financial rescue package broke off with Greece's creditors: other European countries that use the euro, the IMF and the European Central Bank. It's unclear when they could restart, but the Tsipras government has said it believed a deal with creditors could be reached within 48 hours of the vote.

Key European leaders were regrouping. The Eurogroup—experts from the finance ministries of the 19 states that have adopted the euro—was set to meet. And EU Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker, Eurogroup President Jeroen Dijsselbloem and ECB President Mario Draghi planned to hold a teleconference to discuss the Greek case. A summit of Eurozone leaders was set to convene Tuesday afternoon.

Flawed bailouts, political missteps brought Greece to brink

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—After two bailouts totaling 240 billion euros ($266 billion) and six years of depression, spending cuts and lost jobs, Greece teeters on the edge of collapse.

How did it come to this? Why couldn't all that money and all that sacrifice turn around a country that makes up less than two percent of the 19-country eurozone economy?

On Sunday, Greeks voted overwhelmingly to reject the budget austerity reforms that creditors had proposed in exchange for loans the country needs to avoid default and a banking collapse.

The "no" vote makes a chaotic departure from the shared euro currency more likely, experts say, though negotiations will resume.

Here are seven short explanations of how Greece got into today's mess:

THE CREDIT BINGE

There is no way around it: Greece engaged in a three-decades-long credit binge starting in the early 1980s, spending the money on plush government jobs for supporters of the country's two major political parties—the center-left PASOK and center-right New Democracy. Taking turns in office, they paid their followers well—driving up private sector wages and making Greece a costly place to do business. They also looked the other way on widespread tax evasion. Independent professionals—including doctors and lawyers—often reported less income than factory workers.

THE EURO ARRIVES

Despite its rickety finances, Greece shaped up a little for a few years and qualified to join the single currency in 2001. It was a time of euphoria and confidence in the euro, seen as a rival to the dollar as a global currency. New members were desired to boost the EU's biggest hope for European integration. Greece was waved in, and promptly went back to its old ways.

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

The arrival of the euro only fueled the debt binge. German and French banks found they could now buy Greek government bonds in euros, not drachmas that might devalue. Greece borrowed at what in retrospect were ridiculously low interest rates, just a bit more than those charged to rock-solid Germany.

They were in the euro, the thinking went, what could go wrong?

In October 2009, after the global financial crisis had made investors more wary of risk, Greece revealed its deficit was far higher than advertised, and its finances were out of control. Its borrowing costs shot up. It couldn't pay.

BAILOUT AUSTERITY

When the party ended, Greece got a 110 billion euro bailout in 2010 from the other eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund. The creditors attached tough conditions to cut spending and deficits, and to tackle the rampant bureaucracy and corruption. Yet the cuts quickly undermined growth, which fell below the optimistic estimates of the creditors who miscalculated how much they would weigh on the economy.

There was a contradiction that couldn't be resolved: cuts in public spending were needed to reduce Greece's cost base because it couldn't devalue. Yet the lower public spending pushed down GDP and simply made the debt burden bigger compared to the size of the economy.

Unemployment soared. Misery multiplied.

HANDCUFFED BY THE EURO

With its own currency, Greece could have defaulted on its debts and devalued, quickly erasing its international cost problem, and moved on within a few years. Cutting wages and prices is tougher, and takes longer. In that sense, the euro has prolonged the agony.

TAXPAYERS ON THE HOOK

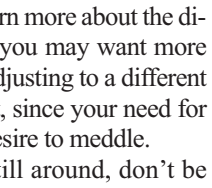
By 2012, it was clear the first bailout wasn't doing the trick. A second rescue included sticking Greece's private creditors with losses on their bonds, along with yet more loans. Yet creditors continued to underestimate how much damage austerity would do to growth. The debt level, measured as a fraction of the economy, continued to increase. Even at the time of the deal, most economists and policy makers expected that further debt reduction or easier terms were inevitable.

But the reshuffle of Greece's debt meant that instead of owing bond investors, Greece's creditors were now European taxpayers, the IMF and the ECB. With taxpayers on the hook, resistance to further debt relief stiffened in place like Germany, the Netherlands, Austria and Finland.

Still, for a while it looked like the second bailout might do the trick. The Greek government under Prime Minister Antonis Samaras narrowed deficits. Some reforms were implemented, while others were passed but didn't really take effect. The economy bottomed out, after an agonizing fall of around 25 percent, and appeared ready to start growing. Greece did get some easier terms on interest and time to pay.

Young manager must respect experience while establishing authority

YOUR OFFICE COACH:



By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics.

Q: I'm a little nervous about my new job. In this role, I will be managing several office directors who are somewhat older than I am. My boss created this position so that he could devote more time to higher-level activities. Previously, all the directors reported to him.

Since these are seasoned professionals, they may resent having a young newcomer as their manager. I don't want to give the impression that I'm trying to take over, but at the same time, I need to establish my authority so they won't take advantage of me. How can I get off to a good start?

A: First of all, your instincts are correct. With an experienced staff, you need to find a happy medium between micromanaging and giving them free rein. If you naturally tend to lean one way or the other, you must modify your style accordingly. Over time, you will discover who deserves autonomy and who may need more attention.

During the initial transition, your manager has primary responsibility for insuring a smooth handoff. To avoid the confusion often created by new positions, he must clearly define the specific duties and goals of your job. If he fails to do so, take the initiative to introduce this topic yourself.

To begin getting acquainted, hold a "transition meeting" with the staff and invite your manager to attend. He can describe your role, explain his reasons for adding a management layer, and acknowledge that this will require an adjustment. You can talk about your background and ask questions about your new environment.

Next, schedule individual meetings to learn more about the directors and their jobs. Explain that at first you may want more frequent communication because you are adjusting to a different organization. This clarification is important, since your need for information might be misinterpreted as a desire to meddle.

Finally, because their former boss is still around, don't be surprised if some folks have difficulty cutting the cord. Under these circumstances, employees often continue taking questions and concerns to their previous manager. Should you find this occurring, simply ask him to gently redirect these wayward souls back to you.

Q: I recently moved from a technical position to a job in human resources. This role requires a lot more communication, but I am not a native English speaker. What is the best way to improve my speaking and writing abilities?

A: An English for Speakers of Other Languages program, or ESOL, is an extremely useful resource for people wishing to sharpen their English skills. An online search can help you locate either a local group or a remote learning curriculum. An assortment of other self-study materials can be found on Amazon.

For real-time feedback, you might also consider giving close colleagues permission to correct your grammar and spelling. But if this sounds uncomfortable or irritating, then it would not be a good idea.

English is difficult to learn, so I applaud your desire to master it. And to anyone with co-workers in a similar situation, please be patient. Unless you have tried communicating in an unfamiliar language, you have no idea how challenging it can be.

Nation

To rename or not? Institutions reconsider honors for racists

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—The massacre at a predominantly black South Carolina church has institutions from Alaska to Connecticut evaluating whether they should continue enshrining the names of historical figures linked to slavery and the Confederacy.

The June 17 slaying of nine black worshippers led to calls to curb displays of the Confederate flag after photos emerged showing the suspect posing with one and burning the U.S. flag. But it also has added urgency to discussions on whether it is time to do away with names given to schools, colleges and streets that have come to be seen in a new light in places far outside the South.

A petition is calling for Yale University in Connecticut to change the name of its residential Calhoun College, which honors 1804 alumnus John C. Calhoun, a prominent advocate of the slave plantation system who became a vice president and U.S. senator from South Carolina. The petition says the name, in place since the 1930s, represents "an indifference to centuries of pain and suffering among the black population."

Yale spokeswoman Karen Peart said the university welcomes the discussion. "The tragedy in Charleston, on top of countless preceding tragedies in our country's history, has elevated public opinion and discourse on difficult subjects that have too long been avoided," she said.

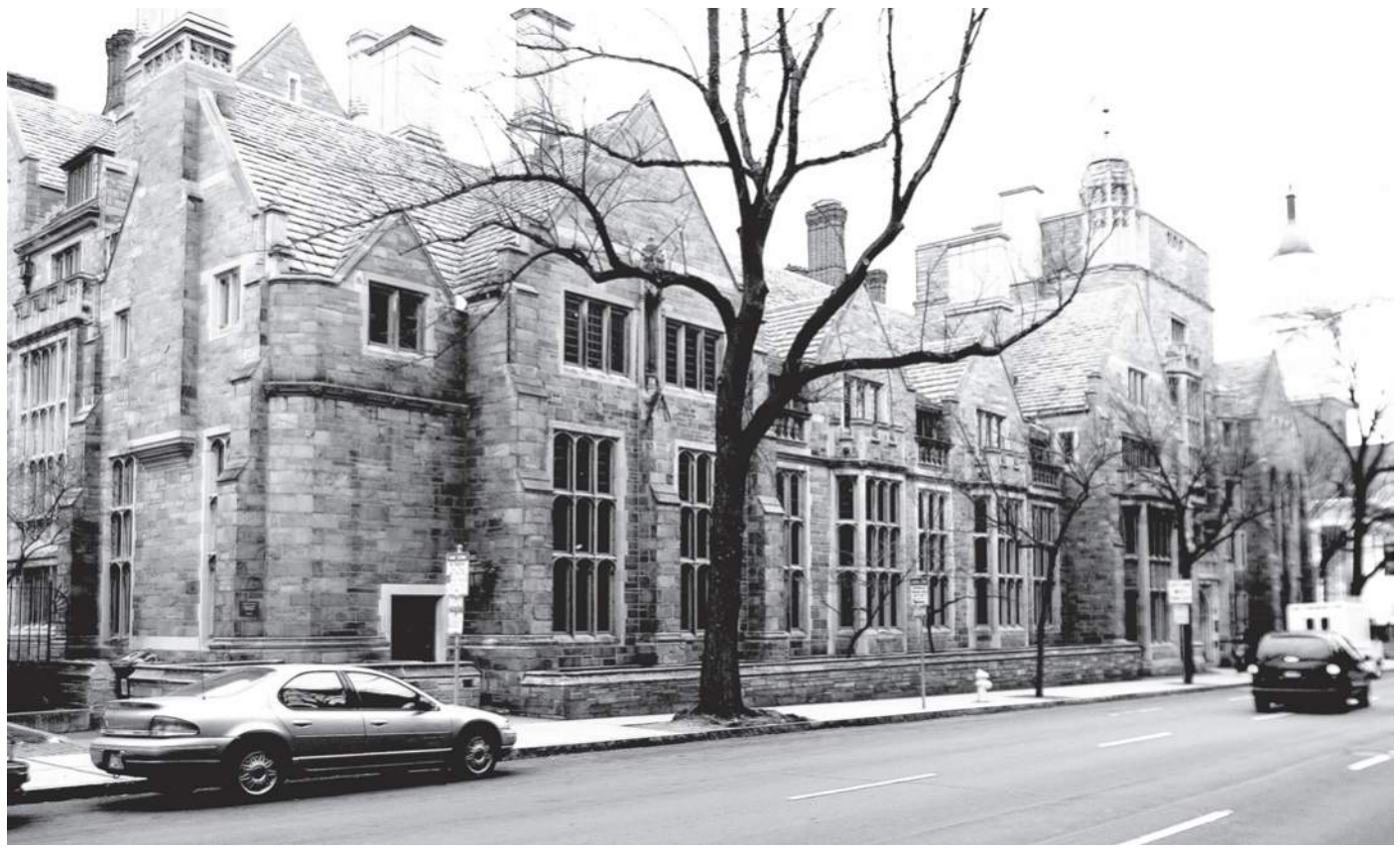
Other campaigns around the country include efforts to change the names of Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis and New York City's General Lee Avenue in Brooklyn, named after Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. In Helena, Montana, officials will meet Wednesday to discuss whether anything should be done with a downtown memorial to fallen Confederate soldiers. The foundation was built in 1916 by the Daughters of the Confederacy.

The Charleston shooting took place during Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the man charged in the attack, Dylann Roof, posted photos online showing him holding a Confederate flag, along with writings laying out hatred of minorities.

David Glassberg, a University of Massachusetts professor who has researched public memorials, said the naming or renaming of buildings, monuments and even fundraising dinners is always political. And at the time when many were named, African-Americans did not have political power.

"For sure, African-Americans knew that these people were who they were, but they were really powerless to do anything," he said. "These traditions represent the traditions of past people."

In Connecticut, the revisionist sentiment has extended in some quarters to non-Confederate figures. The state Democratic Party will decide this month whether to strip the names of two slave-owning U.S. presidents, Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson, from the moniker of its 67-year-old annual fundraising dinner. The party's chairman, Nick Balletto, said the shooting made him think about how the party has changed and "history has not been kind" to Jefferson and Jackson.



AP

This Feb. 2, 2007 file photo shows Calhoun College, one of the 12 residential colleges housing Yale undergraduates at Yale University in New Haven, Conn.

Haley says church shooting will forever change her outlook

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—For five years, Gov. Nikki Haley, South Carolina's first minority governor, dismissed calls to remove the Confederate battle flag from the Statehouse lawn as a divisive issue far from her agenda.

In her 2010 campaign, she said the two-thirds legislative approval required to move the flag from its 30-foot perch was too high a hurdle to allow for real debate. When her re-election opponent called last fall for it to be removed, she branded it a desperate stunt.

None of that mattered, she said, after nine people were killed last month at a black church in Charleston, including its pastor, State Sen. Clementa Pinckney, in a crime she called "pure hate." When Haley arrived at the church, she found strangers hugging and weeping, and the grief was overwhelming.

At the June 19 bond hearing for suspected shooter Dylann Roof, the victims' families offered him forgiveness. That night, Haley said, she made a decision.

"That flag needed to come down," she told The Associated Press in an emotional interview Wednesday. "I could not look my kids in the face and justify that flag anymore."

The surfacing of a website showing Roof holding Confederate flags alongside a racist manifesto deepened her resolve, she said.

"I could not have been more disgusted," she said. "The flag didn't kill those families, but let's honor every person in South Carolina so no one drives by this Statehouse and feels pain."

But Haley said nothing publicly for several more days, waiting as calls for the flag's removal built, even among her fellow Republicans.

Before her announcement June 22, she met with legislators and community leaders, including Lonnie Randolph, president of South Carolina's NAACP chapter, which has long fought to remove the flag.

Randolph said Haley had little choice. With the world watching, he said, "There was nowhere else to go."

She then publicly called on legislators to send the battle flag to a museum.

"I give her credit for stepping out there and doing what's right," said House Minority Leader Todd Rutherford who stood with Haley during the announcement. "I wish it had been done a long time ago."

While the flag for many South Carolinians stands for noble traditions of history, heritage and ancestry, she said in her speech, for many others it's a "deeply offensive symbol of a brutally oppressive past."

Lewis Gossett, president of the state Manufacturers Alliance, said he began speaking with his board members about pushing to bring the flag down following a memorial to the victims but didn't notify Haley about it until after her announcement.

Man shoots off firework from top of his head, dies instantly

CALAIS, Maine (AP)—A 22-year-old man who was drinking and celebrating the Fourth of July tried to launch a firework off the top of his head, killing him instantly, authorities said Sunday.

Devon Staples and his friends had been drinking and setting off fireworks Saturday night in the backyard of a friend's home in eastern Maine, said Stephen McCausland, a spokesman for the state Department of Public Safety.

Staples, 22, of Calais, a small city on the Canadian border, placed a reloadable fireworks mortar tube on his head and told his friends he was going to light it, McCausland said. But his friends urged him to stop.

"Apparently, he thought that was a great idea," McCausland said. "His friends they thought dissuaded him from doing it, and the next thing they knew, he ignited the fireworks and he was killed instantly."

Staples's brother Cody told the Daily News of New York that he was a few feet away when his brother lit the firework and was the first to come to his side after it exploded.

"There was no rushing him to the hospital. There was no Devon left when I got there," said 25-year-old Cody Staples, who called it an accident.

"Devon was not the kind of person who would do something stupid. He was the kind of person who would pretend to do something stupid to make people laugh," he said.

Staples' death is the first fireworks fatality in Maine since the state legalized fireworks on Jan. 1, 2012, authorities said.

Lawmakers had voted to repeal a 1949 law banning fireworks, reasoning the industry would create jobs and generate revenue.

State fire marshals were also investigating several other Fourth of July fireworks accidents involving injuries in Friendship, Jefferson, Lebanon and Woodstock. They said most of the accidents involved burns and eye injuries.

In Montana on Saturday, a 32-year-old man was killed at a Billings home in a fireworks accident involving a mortar tube.

And in New Jersey, a 52-year-old man blew off a large piece of his left leg below the knee when he set off a tennis-ball sized firework in Leonia.

ACROSS THE NATION

Boy, 7, killed during violent July 4 celebrations in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP)—Authorities say a 7-year-old boy who was celebrating the Fourth of July with his family was among three people who were shot and killed overnight in Chicago. Police say the child, Amari Brown, was shot after someone opened fire just before midnight Saturday in the Humboldt Park neighborhood. He was pronounced dead early Sunday at Stroger Hospital. Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy said Sunday at a news conference that the boy's father, a "ranking gang member," had been the intended target. No one was in custody Sunday. Additionally, a 26-year-old man was fatally shot in the Albany Park neighborhood and a 26-year-old man was gunned down in the South Shore neighborhood.

2 people dead, 3 missing after boat capsizes in Ohio River

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Two people were killed and three remained missing after the pontoon boat they were riding in hit a barge and capsized in the Ohio River, Kentucky authorities said Sunday. Louisville Fire Chief Greg Frederick said nine people were aboard the boat and that four were rescued after the accident shortly before 10 p.m. Saturday. He said three of those rescued were children and that they were wearing life jackets. Frederick said the fatalities include one adult and one child. He said a child is among the missing. It's unclear if they were wearing life jackets. No identifications have been released.

Deteriorating nails blamed for North Carolina deck collapse

EMERALD ISLE, N.C. (AP)—Nails deteriorated by years of exposure to the sand, salt and moisture from the ocean gave way, causing a deck collapse that hurt 24 people as they posed for a picture at a North Carolina beachfront home, authorities said. The deck was likely up to code when the house was built in 1986, but the nearly 30-year-old nails simply fell apart under the weight of the people standing on small part of the deck Saturday night, Emerald Isle Town Manager Frank Rush said in a news release Sunday. The pilings of the deck remained in place, and two-thirds of the structure did not fall, he said. Twenty-four people of an extended family were injured when they fell about 10 feet to the ground, authorities said. The ages of those injured ranged from 5 to 94, and five of them remain in the hospital with two still in critical condition, Rush said.

Asia

S. Korean violinist wants border concert with N. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Violinist Won Hyung Joon wants to bring North and South Korean musicians together next month to perform on each side of the world's most heavily armed border. Standing in the way is the rivals' long, frustrating inability to move past their painful shared history.

Won says North Korean diplomats in Berlin have tentatively signed off on a plan for a renowned German conductor to lead a 70-member South Korean orchestra through Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and the Korean folk tune "Arirang" while accompanied by a choir of 70 North Koreans just across the border on Aug. 15, the 70th anniversary of the 1945 liberation of a single Korea from Japan's 35-year colonial rule.

Wary South Korean officials, however, want a more formal endorsement from Pyongyang before they give their agreement to a concert at the border village of Panmunjom, where an armistice ended the three-year Korean War in 1953. Won and his German partners are pushing for that formal go-ahead from Pyongyang.

Dozens of Korean musicians joining their instruments and voices in harmony across the border, Won says, could dramatically illustrate the continuing tragedy of the Korean Peninsula, which, after liberation from Japan, was divided into a pro-U.S South and Soviet-backed North and remains in a technical state of war because a peace treaty formally ending the eventual Korean War has never been settled.

"We won't be able to talk to each other or hug each other. We'll just stand face to face and commune through music," Won said. "We want to do something meaningful at a meaningful place on a meaningful day."

First, though, he has to win support from two governments whose reluctance to cooperate, even on the most seemingly mild proposals, is often ingrained.

The countries, which enjoyed a period of rapprochement in the 2000s, bar their citizens from exchanging visits, phone calls, letters and email without government permission. Naval skirmishes occasionally happen. And Pyongyang, which faces global condemnation for its nuclear bomb program, has recently responded with fury to the opening of a U.N. office in Seoul meant to monitor what defectors, activists and many countries call an abysmal human rights record.

Won and some outside analysts believe the concert will likely happen. Pyongyang may see it as a way to improve ties with Seoul, which could then stimulate a flow of aid and investment that the impoverished country needs to help revive its decrepit economy. Better relations with Seoul could also help offset North Korea's fraying ties with China, its only major ally.

Storm causes floods, knocks out power in north Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A tropical storm blew across the northern Philippines on Sunday, causing floods and power outages in several towns and prompting rescue teams to scramble to evacuate villagers in low-lying communities.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from slow-moving Tropical Storm Linfa, which set off minor landslides in at least two mountainous provinces, officials said.

The storm, which had sustained winds of 85 kilometers (53 miles) per hour and gusts of 100 kph (62 mph), was expected to start blowing away from the country on Monday, according to government forecasters.

Melchito Castro, a regional disaster-response agency chief, said the hardest-hit area was La Union province, where 11 towns were swamped in floodwaters that stranded villagers in their homes. The entire province lost power as the storm lashed, he said.

"There's massive flooding here in La Union," Castro said, adding that the pounding rain caused about three rivers to swell.

Rainwater also cascaded down from a mountain range and swamped La Union, a coastal province of about 800,000 people, officials said.

Police said a private helicopter plunged into a mountainous area in Batangas province south of Manila in bad weather from the storm, killing at least two people and injuring six others. It was not immediately clear if the crash was caused by the weather, and an investigation was underway.

"There was zero visibility when the crash happened," police Senior Inspector Joel Laraya said by phone.

Linfa was the fifth storm to batter the Philippines this year and the first after a prolonged and dry summer that threatened farmlands and dams that supply tap water and irrigation in many areas. About 20 storms and typhoons batter the country each year.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Zoo tram accident in northeastern Thailand kills 5 people

BANGKOK (AP)—Two trams used to shuttle visitors around a zoo in northeastern Thailand collided Sunday, killing five people and injuring more than 30, police said. The accident at the Kao Suan Kwang Zoo in Khon Kaen province occurred when one tram driver lost control due to a problem with the vehicle's brakes and slammed into a tram in front, said police Col. Pichit Deeya. The impact caused both trams to overturn, crushing a passenger who died at the scene, Pichit said. Four other people died from injuries at a local hospital, he said, adding that all the victims were Thai nationals. Among the dead was a 2-year-old girl. About 10 other children were injured, ranging in age from 3-12, Pichit said.

Indian coast guard seizes Iranian boat, arrests 12 crew

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's coast guard seized an Iranian fishing boat off the country's southern coast early Sunday and arrested 12 crew members, officials said. Top Kerala state police officer T.P. Senakumar said the Iranian crew members were being questioned for possible smuggling and breach of India's national security, but he declined to give details. Sitanshu Kar, India's defense ministry spokesman, said the boat was intercepted and seized early Sunday by the coast guard. The Press Trust of India news agency said coast guard officials found one satellite phone and a Pakistani identity card on the boat which was intercepted 100 kilometers (60 miles) off the Kerala state coast.

Heritage title for Japan industry sites draws mixed reaction

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese officials have expressed elation over the approval by the U.N. cultural body of world heritage status for 23 historic sites reflecting the country's transformation into an industrial power at the end of the 19th century. But the reaction over the UNESCO World Heritage Committee's decision drew mixed reactions Monday from neighboring China and South Korea, whose citizens were forced to work at some of the sites before and during World War II. South Korea welcomed Japan's agreement to acknowledge its history of forced labor at the sites, which include a former coal mine on a fortress island off Japan's southwest coast, a major steel mill still in use and shipbuilding facilities.

World

Pope Francis on home turf urges defense of poor, planet

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Latin America's first pope returned to Spanish-speaking South America for the first time Sunday, stressing the need to protect the poor and the environment from exploitation and to foster dialogue among all sectors of society.

AP

Pope Francis waves upon his arrival to the Mariscal Sucre International airport in Quito, Ecuador, Sunday, July 5, 2015.

Children in traditional dress greeted Francis at Mariscal Sucre airport outside Ecuador's capital, the wind blowing off his skullcap and whipping his white cassock as he descended from the plane following a 13-hour flight from Rome. He greeted and kissed several indigenous youths waiting for him on the side of the red carpet.

In a speech in front of President Rafael Correa, Francis signaled some of the key themes for the visit, which will also take him to Bolivia and Paraguay: the need to care for society's most marginal, guarantee socially responsible economic development and defend the Earth against profit-at-all-cost development that he says harms the poor the most.

"From the peak of Chimborazo to the Pacific coast, from the Amazon rainforest to the Galapagos Islands, may you never lose the ability to thank God for what he has done and is doing for you," he said from the tarmac. "May you never lose the ability to protect what is small and simple, to care for your children and your elderly who are the memory of your people, to have confidence in the young and to be constantly struck by the nobility of your people and the singular beauty of your country."

US-led coalition unleashes wave of airstrikes on Raqqa

BEIRUT (AP)—U.S.-led coalition aircraft unleashed a wave of airstrikes targeting the Islamic State group's stronghold of Raqqa in eastern Syria in what the coalition said Sunday was one of its most sustained aerial operations carried out in Syria to date.

IS said at least 10 people were killed and many others wounded in the attacks which activists said triggered successive explosions that shook the city and created panic among residents. The U.S.-led coalition often targets IS-held towns and cities in Syria, but the overnight strikes on Raqqa were rare in their intensity.

In a statement, the coalition said it carried out 18 airstrikes throughout Raqqa province, destroying a number of IS vehicles and 16 bridges. An earlier statement said the attacks also destroyed vital IS-controlled structures and transit routes in Syria.

"The significant airstrikes tonight were executed to deny Daesh the ability to move military capabilities throughout Syria and into Iraq," said coalition spokesman Lt. Col. Thomas Gilleran, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

"This was one of the largest deliberate engagements we have conducted to date in Syria, and it will have debilitating effects on Daesh's ability to move" from Raqqa, he said.

Raqqa is the de facto capital of the so-called Islamic caliphate declared a year ago by the Islamic State group in territories it controls in Iraq and Syria. The sustained airstrikes add pressure on the militants in Raqqa, still reeling from last month's loss of the border town of Tal Abyad to Kurdish fighters. The town on the Turkish border was a major avenue for commerce and smuggling for the group.

A militant website said 10 people were killed and dozens of others wounded. An IS-affiliated Facebook page said one civilian was among those killed and 10 were wounded including women and children.

On 9th day, Kerry says Iran nuke talks could go either way

VIENNA (AP)—Nine days into marathon nuclear talks, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Sunday said the diplomatic efforts "could go either way," cutting off all potential pathways for an Iranian atomic bomb or ending without an agreement that American officials have sometimes described as the only alternative to war.

The EU's top foreign policy official, Federica Mogherini, said agreement was "very close." But Kerry said there was still a ways to go.

"We are not yet where we need to be on several of the most critical issues," Kerry told reporters outside the 19th-century Viennese palace that has hosted the negotiations.

World powers and Iran are hoping to clinch a deal by Tuesday, setting a decade of restrictions on Iran's nuclear program and granting Iran significant relief from international sanctions. Kerry met for 3 1/2 hours on Sunday with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, as top diplomats from the five other negotiating countries planned to return to Austria's capital later in the evening.

"It is now time to see whether or not we are able to close an agreement," Kerry said, after hobbling on crutches through 97-degree heat to a podium set up in a city square.

While "genuine progress" had been made and the sides "have never been closer, at this point, this negotiation could go either way. If the hard choices get made in the next couple of days, and made quickly, we could get an agreement this week," Kerry said. "But if they are not made, we will not."

The talks had appeared to be moving forward. On Saturday, diplomats reported tentative agreement on the speed and scope of sanctions relief for Iran in the accord, even as issues such as inspection guidelines and limits on Iran's nuclear research and development remained contentious.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier spoke of "sharper" deal contours.

"But that shouldn't deceive us," he said. "There's still a possibility that there will be a lack of courage and readiness in crucial points to build the bridges that we need to find to each other."

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: Hot 2015 Volkswagen Golf R is just a bit out of focus

By TERRY BOX
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Turmoil courses through Volkswagen like a chemical spill.

Maybe it puts more crease in their character lines or yowl in their growl. I don't really know.

But VW seems to savor a stout shot of drama at the end of each day.

First, as you may have heard, the steely patriarch and chairman of VW tried to shove the CEO out. In a move heavy with boardroom irony and intrigue, VW's directors instead ousted the chairman, Ferdinand Piech. Whoops.

Now the company's sales chief—an ally of Piech's—could be the next suit thrown ignominiously from VW's glistening towers in Wolfsburg.

And Volkswagen—the No. 3 automaker in the world—is still struggling in the U.S., with sales down nearly 10 percent last year in a hot market.

It sure makes my sorry sack of rocks feel lighter.

So if the 2015 Volkswagen Golf R seems a bit distracted, we should probably cut it some slack.

The limited-production R enjoys high standing as one of Europe's better hot hatches.

Considered a step up from the vaunted Volkswagen GTI, the R can rip through the Alps in the morning and make a sausage-and-beer run in the afternoon—all while averaging 25 miles per gallon.

It packs a punch and a lunch.

Like the company that builds it, the R crackles with interesting changes this year, appropriating the same 2-liter turbo four and all-wheel-drive powertrain that propel the superb Audi S3.

You'll need to look hard for clues of that move, though.

From 10 feet, the glossy silver R sedan I had recently appeared to be just another stylishly square, two-box VW Golf, a practical front-driver for Unitarians.

Get closer, however, and you may notice four small "R" badges on various panels of the car, as well as large 19-inch alloy wheels wearing fairly meaty 235/35 tires.

In back, dual twin-tipped exhausts poke from beneath the bumper, suggesting that this might be something more than a tepid mid-level Golf.

If you like square lines and subtlety, you'll appreciate the unassuming R.

LOW AND CLEAN

Low and clean, the R had a sleek blacked-out grille flanked by fairly conventional wrap-around headlamps.

A prominent character line beneath its door handles cut crisply though mostly flat sides, and the R's big wheels and low-profile tires fully occupy the car's corners.

Unlike me, it seemed more serious and purposeful up close.

Just pop the hood, for example. Volkswagen-Audi's ubiquitous 2-liter four, which seems available in just about every model of their vehicles, is tweaked and turbocharged in the R version to 292 horsepower.

It twists a dual-clutch six-speed automatic with considerable authority, putting its power to the pavement through all four wheels.

The Haldex all-wheel-drive system and other upscale options add minimal weight, pushing the R to a little over 3,400 pounds, about 100 more than the front-wheel-drive GTI.

That likely plays a role in the R's acceptable economy: 23 miles per gallon in town and 30 on the highway.

The turbo-squeezed four spins out 280 pound-feet of torque at an impressively low 1,800 rpm. On paper, I figured I was in for some neck-snapping good times. Only, like promises in the night, they never quite materialized.

Don't let me mislead you, kids. The R leaps away from stops and efficiently rips its way to 60 mph in 4.5 very fleet seconds, according to Car and Driver.

It felt quick, too, surging a little at around 3,000 rpm and emitting a small exhaust "woof" with each paddle shift of the transmission.

But when I added everything up, the R just felt slightly less intense and focused than its little brother, the GTI, and it costs $40,000, about $6,000 more than a GTI with a few options.

Hmmm. Did the R catch some residual dust from VW's bad juju?

GOOD GRIP

Likewise, the R is equipped with a fairly sophisticated "adaptive sport suspension" that provided flat, balanced cornering with good grip from the all-wheel-drive system.

While a bit numb, the steering felt nicely weighted, precise and extremely quick.

Consequently, I could sail hard into tight curves and stay on the accelerator, moving the unflappable R around between curbs as it drifted lightly.

But the R just didn't seem to turn in with the razor-sharp aggression or corner with the unabashed joy of the supposedly lesser GTI.

It sometimes felt like a gifted athlete after a divorce and a couple of bankruptcies.

As you might expect in a high-performance sedan, the R rolled firmly over smooth pavement, getting kind of rowdy on the weather-beaten stuff. You could easily take it on a road trip, but don't bring any whiners with you.

Most of the time, the R's black interior seemed high-end hot hatch.

A flat-topped dashboard curved stylishly over the instrument panel, for instance, while a broad center stack trimmed in piano black looked proportional with its 5.8-inch display screen.

Even better, simple buttons and knobs below the screen controlled the car's climate system.

Meanwhile, VW provided a little flash with the function, trimming the dash and door panels in a carbon fiber-like material.

The seats and flat-bottom steering wheel fit especially well. Black seats stitched in decent leather offered comfortable support, and the legroom and headroom in back were reasonable.

I also gave VW high marks for the nifty black woven headliner in the car I had.

But would I buy an R? Maybe. It delivers performance similar to the wild-child Subaru WRX STI and is easier to live with.

The problem, as I see it, is that the R doesn't feel $6,000 better than the excellent GTI.

Give us a bit more edge and excitement, though, and the R could dominate the hot-hatch segment.

It might even want to run away from home.

Terry Box writes for the Dallas Morning News. He may be reached at tbox@dallasnews.com.

NUTS & BOLTS

2015 Volkswagen Golf R

- Type of vehicle: Five-passenger, all-wheel-drive, compact sedan
- Price as tested: $39,910
- Fuel economy: 23 miles per gallon city, 30 highway
- Weight: About 3,400 pounds
- Engine: Turbocharged, direct-injected 2-liter four-cylinder with 292 horsepower and 280 pound-feet of torque
- Transmission: Six-speed, dual-clutch automatic
- Performance: 0 to 60 mph in 4.5 seconds

Sources: Volkswagen Group of America; Car and Driver

UNDER THE HOOD: Air control issues have drive hot under the collar

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: I have a 1999 Corvette with dual-zone air controls. On three different occasions the controls have gotten stuck on a certain setting, and I've then been unable to get them to move. I bought two new units. They seemed to work for awhile and then the same thing happened. I had the car totally checked out, which cost $1,000. They couldn't find anything wrong with the car. Would putting in LED taillights make a difference? I am at a loss! Do you have any idea on this matter?

—David Jacobson

A: This is a tough one! Let's first put your concerns about your LED taillight conversion to rest. I can't imagine how this could be involved with your climate control issue. I'm curious what the $1,000 check out consisted of. GM vehicles of this vintage are known for erratic operation of the climate control panel should either of the temperature control knobs be rotated rather quickly. Your symptom could be a result of this, although the odd operation would disappear after the next engine restart, when the control panel reboots. I wasn't sure from your message if the symptom was intermittent or continuous.

I'll continue, assuming the above situation may not be the cause of your concern. I researched hard and couldn't find mention of your issue. The incandescent back lighting lamps for the control panel are known to burn out and there's companies who do a great job replacing them with LED upgrades.

It's always a good idea to begin diagnosis with a check for diagnostic trouble codes when a fault occurs, but the climate control trouble codes possible on this system are limited to external climate control circuit and component faults rather than something that might cause this. There are three electrical circuits connected to the control panel that must provide stable voltages for proper operation to occur: battery power, ignition power and ground. I wonder if unplugging the climate control unit and reconnecting it may be all that's needed for operation to resume, at least for a while (a hard boot).

A fault in any of the three circuits mentioned could possibly spook the control panel should an erratic voltage occur, or possibly kill it, if a large voltage spike or jump-starting boo-boo transpires. Observing voltages on all three circuits while the vehicle is driven in a variety of conditions, particularly rough roads and during operation of all accessories, might provide a definitive clue. The minimum-maximum function of a digital voltmeter is one way to spot a brief hiccup, but a more accurate analysis would come from using a digital storage oscilloscope or digital graphing mulitmeter. These tools can catch incredibly brief glitches, down to about 50 millionths of a second! Once an event can be confirmed and repeated, the process of elimination is employed by disabling possible contributors.

Tip: Musty odor from the A/C system? Try switching the mode from Max A/C or Recirculate to Outside Air during the latter part of each trip. Better yet, switch to Fan/Vent only. This can help dry up accumulated moisture on the evaporator's fins and case. Applying a 30 second blast of Lysol into the air intake (typically below the base of the windshield) with windows open, fan on high, outside air selected, can also help reduce mildew accumulation. Renewing the cabin air filter is also recommended.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood(at)earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

'Terminator,' 'Magic Mike' fizzle at July 4th box office

NEW YORK (AP)—July 4th went off like a dud at the box office. Anticipated new releases "Magic Mike XXL" and "Terminator Genisys" fizzled, leaving the popular holdovers "Jurassic World" and "Inside Out" to top the holiday weekend.

Despite the brawny enticements of Channing Tatum and Arnold Schwarzenegger, the four-week rule of Universal's dinosaur sensation "Jurassic World" continued with an estimated $30.9 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Pixar's acclaimed "Inside Out" nearly caught up to the runaway dinos, taking in $30.1 million in its third weekend of release.

The strength of those June hits and the unfortunate timing of July 4th this year coming on a Saturday (rather than stretching out a long weekend) meant the sequels "Terminator Genisys" and "Magic Mike XXL" both failed to match previous installments.

Paramount's "Terminator Genisys," the fifth film in the series which also marks Schwarzenegger's return to his most iconic character, took in $28.7 million over the weekend and $44.2 million since opening Wednesday.

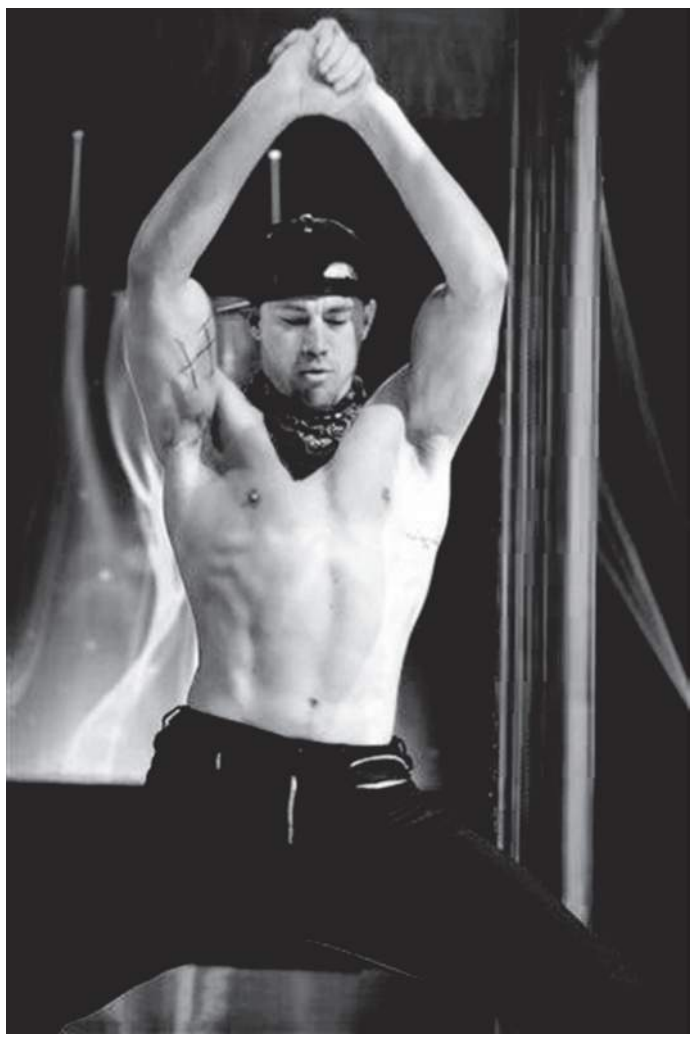
Warner Bros. also tried to expand the weekend, opening Tatum's male-stripper romp "Magic Mike XXL" on Wednesday. But after a strong start, the film managed just $12 million over the weekend. Over five days it made $27.1 million.

The openings were disappointing for the new releases, but each has a different makeup. "Terminator Genisys," an attempted reboot in the 31-year-old, James Cameron-created franchise, was made for $155 million. "Magic Mike XXL," a road-trip sequel to Steven Soderbergh's 2012 hit original, was made for just under $15 million.

Megan Colligan, head of worldwide distribution for Paramount, said the weekend simply didn't play like a holiday weekend.

"The weekend got off to a very sluggish start because people didn't have off until Friday," said Colligan. "Our start was just not where it needed to be. Some of that does have to do with it is pretty severe competition. `Jurassic' is still such a powerhouse in the marketplace and it was hard to anticipate that that wouldn't have burned off a little more by now."

"Genisys" failed to come close to the previous "Terminator" film, the Schwarzenegger-less "Salvation," which had a five-day debut of $65.3 million over Memorial Day weekend in 2009. "Genisys," which critics have slammed, is finding better business abroad. It made $74 million international over the weekend.



AP

This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Channing Tatum in a scene from the film, "Magic Mike XXL."

"Magic Mike XXL," however, had the benefit of largely positive reviews and tracking numbers that suggested a possible No. 1 opening of more than $40 million. The original debuted with $39.1 million.

But "Magic Mike XXL" failed to expand its audience. Whereas moviegoers for the first film were 73 percent female, "Magic Mike XXL" was a staggering 96 percent female, Warner Bros. said.

Dan Fellman, head of domestic distribution for Warner Bros., said the film performed worse than expected in the South, Midwest and in Canada. Such a "girls-night-out" release, he said, didn't materialize over the holiday weekend.

"Our audience wasn't available to us," said Fellman. "We might be down but we're not out. I'm in the wait and see mode."

Hollywood's summer has been inching close to equaling its record 2013 season, thanks partly to the unexpected success of "Jurassic World." (Now with $558.2 million domestically, it's already the fourth-best showing of all time in North America.)

The biggest potholes this summer have been holiday weekends, noted Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office firm Rentrak.

Those weekends usually are the tent poles to Hollywood's summer spectacle, but the lagging Independence Day weekend follows a lackluster Memorial Day, when Disney's "Tomorrowland" flopped.

"These are the weekends everyone's going, `Wow, what happened?'" said Dergarabedian. "Part of it was the calendar. Part of it, too, was you have two movies out there—"Jurassic World" and "Inside Out"—that are just dominating the marketplace. Both those movies have appealed to every audience segment imaginable."

This weekend was still up 6.9 percent over last year, when Melissa McCarthy's "Tammy" and the sci-fi adventure "Earth to Echo" made for Hollywood's worst July 4 in decades.

Universal's animated off-shoot sequel "Minions" will debut next weekend after a strong international performance. The film, which gives the pipsqueak henchmen of the "Despicable Me" movies the spotlight, has already grossed $124.2 million abroad, including $54.3 million this weekend.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Ballerina Misty Copeland heading to Broadway's 'On the Town'

NEW YORK (AP)—Ballerina Misty Copeland, who just became the first African-American woman to be a principal dancer at American Ballet Theatre, has another breakthrough planned—a debut on Broadway.

Producers of the high-energy revival of "On the Town" said Sunday that Copeland will join the show from Aug. 25 to Sept. 6, playing Miss Turnstiles, a love interest for one of three sailors enjoying a few hours of shore leave in 1940s New York.

"I don't know if I know what I'm in for. It's going to be a huge challenge for me. It's quite a departure from what I'm used to. But I love a challenge and I think it's going to help me grow as an artist," Copeland said.

The role requires both acting and singing, in addition to plenty of dancing, including a 15-minute ballet at the end. The role is currently filled by Megan Fairchild, a principal dancer at the prestigious New York City Ballet.

"I can carry a tune. We'll see what happens," she said. "I'm excited. I'm a Virgo and we're a little bit anal and we're definitely hard workers, so I'm going to put my all into this."

Copeland saw the show a few months ago with her boyfriend, knowing the offer of replacing Fairchild was on the table. "It's probably the best show I've ever seen, I think," she said. "I was just blown away."

AP

Misty Copeland speaks to reporters during a news conference, Tuesday, June 30, 2015, in New York.

The ballerina will play six performances during the eight-show week, including the Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evening shows, as well as the matinees on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

Copeland has been named by Time magazine one of the most influential figures of 2015, and written both a children's book, "Firebird," and a best-selling memoir, "Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina." She's also performed in a music video with Prince and was featured in a hugely popular online ad for Under Armour sportswear.

The dancer also has appeared as a guest host on the Fox show "So You Think You Can Dance" and was a presenter at this year's Tony Awards. Copeland, 32, said she relishes bringing dance to an audience in any form she can.

"Whether it's Broadway or ballet, that's always been my goal: to just bring more people into it," she said. "Because I think it's so special and I think the arts can do so much for a person, not just a child. It's completely changed and altered my life in so many amazing ways."

Burt Shavitz, the Burt behind Burt's Bees, dies at 80

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—The reclusive beekeeper who co-founded Burt's Bees, and whose face and wild beard appeared on labels for the natural cosmetics, died on Sunday. Burt Shavitz was 80.

A spokeswoman for Burt's Bees said in an emailed statement Shavtiz died of respiratory complications in Bangor, Maine, surrounded by family and friends.

Shavitz was a hippie making a living by selling honey when his life was altered by a chance encounter with a hitchhiking Roxanne Quimby. She was a single mother and a back-to-the-lander who impressed Shavitz with her ingenuity and self-sufficiency.

In the 1980s she began making products from his beeswax, and they became partners.

The business partnership ended after Quimby moved the company to North Carolina in 1994. The company continued to expand, but Shavitz moved back to Maine. He has said he was forced out after having an affair with an employee. In 2007, Clorox purchased Burt's Bees for $925 million.

"Burt was an enigma; my mentor and my muse. I am deeply saddened," Quimby told The Associated Press in an email.

Shavitz received an undisclosed settlement—and 37 acres in remote corner of Maine. He also continued to make appearances on behalf of the company.

AP

In May 23, 2014, file photo, Burt Shavitz poses for a photo on his property in Parkman, Maine. Shavitz, a former beekeeper, is the Burt behind Burt's Bees.

"What I have in this situation is no regret," he said last year while sitting in a rocking chair in his home in Parkman. "The bottom line is she's got her world and I've got mine, and we let it go at that."

Though he is known for being a character from the backwoods of Maine, Shavitz grew up around New York, served in the Army in Germany and shot photos for Time-Life before leaving the city.

He tried leaving Maine once before, spending a winter on a warm island, but was drawn back to the state. He was also the subject of a documentary, "Burt's Buzz."

"Burt was a complex man who sought a simple life in pace with the seasons of nature on his land," the company said in a statement. "If there is one thing we will remember from Burt's life, in our fast-paced, high-tech culture, it's to never lose sight of our relationship with nature."

In recent years, Shavitz lived in a cluttered house with no running water. A converted turkey coop that used to be his home remained on his property. He liked passing the time by watching wildlife.

Queen Latifah, Amy Schumer headline Fourth of July festival

AP

In this May 31, 2015, file photo, Queen Latifah arrives at the Critics' Choice Television Awards at the Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

NEW YORK (AP)—Queen Latifah started with "The Star-Spangled Banner" and ended with a rap classic, Amy Schumer told raunchy jokes despite some children in the crowd and country singer Sara Evans was a vocal powerhouse when she covered Sam Smith.

The performers headlined the inaugural Fourth of July Freedom Festival at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, which organizers plan to hold annually.

Latifah closed the event benefiting the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, which began Saturday night and went into Sunday morning. She was versatile, going from jazz standards to Broadway tunes to rap—mirroring her adaptable career.

"Shout-out to all of our men and women in uniform. Shout-out to my father, Vietnam veteran. Thank you so much daddy," she said.

She ended with her hip-hop anthem "U.N.I.T.Y." and thanked the crowd for allowing her to move from music to Broadway to TV and film.

Schumer was also a crowd favorite, and she warned parents with little ones early on: "Take a lap."

The comedian—who had a breakthrough this year thanks to her popular Comedy Central series, hosting gig at the MTV Movie Awards and upcoming film that she wrote—told jokes about sex, dating and Hollywood, which earned her numerous laughs.

Though most comedians go the stage with water, Schumer brought a bottle of wine, which she chugged throughout her set. She performed longer than planned.

"I'm supposed to get off stage, but I'm not going anywhere. This (ended) up being fun. I thought this was going to suck," she said.

Fans cheer as Princess Charlotte christened on royal estate

AP

Britain's Prince William, Kate the Duchess of Cambridge, their son Prince George and daughter Princess Charlotte in a pram arrive for Charlotte's Christening at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Sandringham, England, Sunday, July 5, 2015.

LONDON (AP)—Prince William and his wife, Kate, marked a milestone for their newborn baby Princess Charlotte on Sunday—a christening ceremony on Queen Elizabeth II's country estate that was steeped in royal tradition.

Hundreds of fans outside St. Mary Magdalene Church in Sandringham, a sprawling royal estate near England's eastern coast, cheered as William and Kate arrived with toddler Prince George and 9-week-old Charlotte, who was in a vintage pram.

It was only the second time Britain's newborn princess, who is fourth in line to the throne, has been seen in public since she was born on May 2.

Charlotte was dressed for the occasion in a replica of the intricate lace-and-satin christening gown made for Queen Victoria's eldest daughter, also named Victoria, in 1841. Until 2008, that original gown had been worn by all royal babies—including the queen—at their christenings.

Following royal tradition, holy water from the River Jordan, where it is said Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, was used for the baptism.

The 16th-century church, close to William and Kate's country house Anmer Hall, is where the royal family traditionally gathers for Christmas service. It is also where Charlotte's late grandmother, Princess Diana, was christened in 1961.

The ceremony was private—the queen, her husband Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Kate's family were among a small group of guests allowed inside. Guests also included five godparents that William and Kate chose for Charlotte, including William's cousin Laura Fellowes, Kate's cousin Adam Middleton, and three of the couple's friends.

Vanessa Williams weds Jim Skrip, her 3rd marriage

AP

In a Thursday, April 23, 2015 file photo, Vanessa Williams waves as she arrives on the red carpet for the closing ceremony of the 5th Beijing International Film Festival in the Huairou district of Beijing.

NEW YORK (AP)—Vanessa Williams tied the knot with her fiance, Jim Skrip, on the Fourth of July.

A representative for the singer-actress said Sunday that Williams and Skrip wed a day earlier. No details of the ceremony were provided.

This is the third marriage for Williams, who was previous married to public relations consultant Ramon Hervey and former Los Angeles Laker Rick Fox. She has three children with Hervey and a daughter with Fox.

Williams earlier said she met Skrip, a former accountant, while traveling in Egypt.

The 52-year-old Williams, a former Miss America contestant, has released eight studio albums and received several Emmy nominations for her performance on ABC's "Ugly Betty."

High-tech Marvel theme park cuts summer tour short

NEW YORK (AP)—The indoor high-tech traveling theme park "The Marvel Experience" has stumbled and will cut short its summer tour.

Producers of the show that includes 360-degree projections, holograms and a 4-D motion ride said Sunday its big debut in Philadelphia will be its one and only stop. The Chicago, New York and St. Louis legs have been cancelled.

Refunds will be available. No reason was given for the show's abrupt cancellation.

It's another black eye for co-producers Michael Cohl and Jeremiah J. Harris, whose "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" was a costly failure on Broadway. Hero Ventures, a Los Angeles-based entertainment company, and Marvel Entertainment also produced the tour. The $30 million show had previously made stops in Phoenix, Dallas and San Diego before being retooled for the current run.

Questioning boyfriend is not likely to change

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Blake," recently broke up with me—again. He told me in the beginning that he was bi-curious, and that he wasn't sure he was completely heterosexual. When he broke up with me the first time, we stayed friends. Everyone seemed confused that I still wanted to hang out with him.

We started communicating long-distance again last summer. Blake broke it off again a few months later, stating that he is still questioning who he is.

Is it wrong that we're still friendly? Should I be angrier at Blake?

STILL THERE FOR HIM IN ILLINOIS

DEAR STILL THERE FOR HIM: I don't see why you should be angry with Blake at all. He has been honest with you from the start that he may be bisexual or gay. I can tell you from experience that gay men make wonderful friends. However, if you are ROMANTIC about him, I must caution you against trying to change him because you won't be able to do it. He is who he is.

DEAR ABBY: I'd like your opinion on something that is creating a rift between me and my sister. My 6-year-old daughter, "Mara," who is very sweet and mature, is used to spending the night away from me because she has been spending weekends with her grandparents since she was little. Now she wants to have overnights with "Uncle Bob," who is not a blood relative but a good friend who is like family.

I have no concerns about this even though Bob is a bachelor who never had children. Mara loves him, he loves her, and I trust him. My sister, who is childless, feels strongly that this is not right. She thinks a 6-year-old should only be with her parents and grandparents. She tells me I should ask a psychologist. I am asking you.

TRUSTING MOM IN MISSOURI

DEAR TRUSTING MOM: I'd be curious to know what Mara's father thinks of this. But since you asked me, let me point out that your little girl may be sweet and mature for her age, but at 6 years old she is also inexperienced, trusting and vulnerable. Because she loves Uncle Bob, I can understand why she might want to stay overnight at his house. In 99 percent of the cases it would be OK. But in light of what we see in the news, it's your job as a mother to err on the side of caution, and I don't recommend it.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter and her husband have successful careers, and I am happy for that. But now it seems that she's ashamed of us. We gave her the best we could and she graduated from college with no debt, thanks to us. We felt it was our responsibility.

Now that they earn lots of money, it's like we're not worthy of their company. I have talked to other mothers, and it seems they are treated the same way. (I would say it's probably seven out of nine parents.) I know they have busy lives, but I would like some consideration if I am sick or have surgery. Where did I go wrong?

ANONYMOUS MOM IN ALABAMA

DEAR ANONYMOUS MOM: Not knowing you and your friends or their children, it's hard to say, but if I had to hazard a guess it would be that you gave too much and raised children who grew up with an overinflated sense of entitlement and no sense of gratitude.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

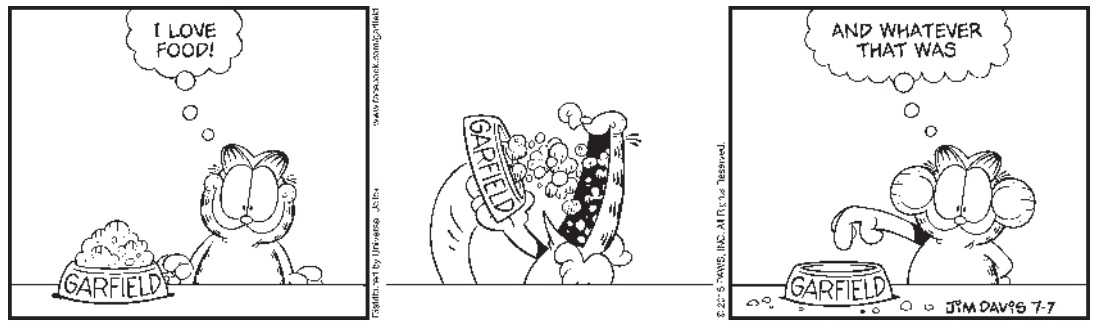
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HEY, ARE YOU READING THAT BOOK MOM GOT ME FROM THE LIBRARY?
MM-HMM.
IS IT GOOD? DO YOU LIKE IT? IS IT EXCITING? ARE YOU HAVING FUN?
SHH.
HOW COULD IT POSSIBLY BE FUN WHEN IT'S SO QUIET?!?

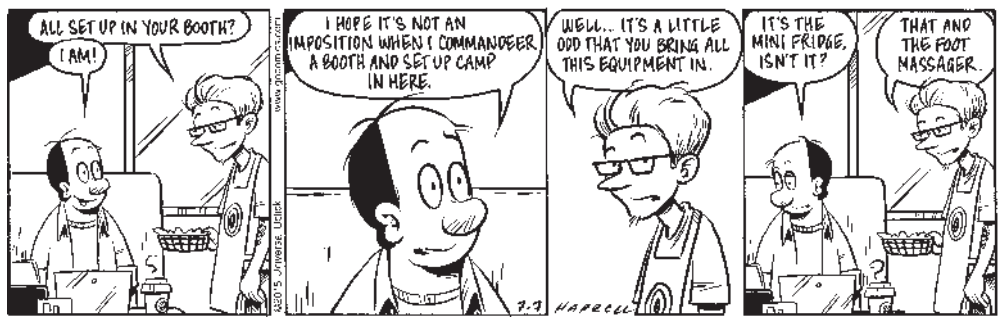
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ALL SET UP IN YOUR BOOTH?
I AM!
I HOPE IT'S NOT AN IMPOSITION WHEN I COMMANDEER A BOOTH AND SET UP CAMP IN HERE.
WELL... IT'S A LITTLE ODD THAT YOU BRING ALL THIS EQUIPMENT IN.
IT'S THE MINI FRIDGE, ISN'T IT?
THAT AND THE FOOT MASSAGER.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Soother
5 Vacationing
8 Cavort
12 Concept
13 Island souvenir
14 Ontario neighbor
15 Welcome information
17 Confront
18 Coffee holder
19 Semi, e.g.
21 Pie nut
24 Slender
25 Destroy
26 Bargain
30 A Gershwin brother
31 Former Houston hockey team
32 Pi follower
33 Bible
35 On in years
36 Wriggly swimmers
37 Folklore figure
38 Old Portuguese money
41 Crone
42 Body powder
43 "I hope you succeed"
48 Lotion additive
49 Anger
50 Needle case
51 Stamina
52 Scott Pelley's network
53 Exemplar of 24-Across

DOWN
1 Ginormous
2 Commotion
3 Zodiac cat
4 Nut
5 Couturier Cassini
6 Not a lot
7 End of the line?
8 Money back
9 Exam format
10 Sightless trio of rhyme
11 Equal
16 Sister
20 Helps
21 Overly proper one
22 38-Across' replacement
23 "Arrivederci"
24 Barcelona bulls
26 Re earth science
27 Therefore
28 Throat sound
29 Prospector's find
31 Sleeping
34 Low cards
35 User of 7-Down
37 Peregrinate
38 Listending abbr.
39 Post-Christmas event
40 Stop up
41 Weeding tools
44 Sphere
45 Multipurpose truck
46 Prompt
47 Youngster

Solution time: 22 mins.

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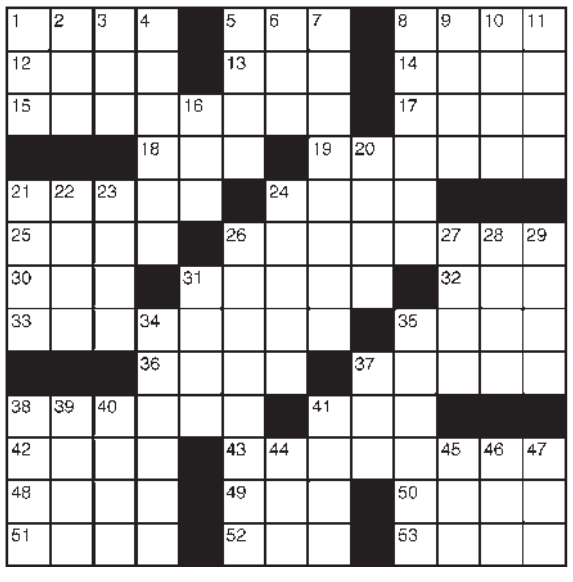
Yesterday's answer 7-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michelle Kwan, 35; Berenice Bejo, 39; Shelley Duvall, 66; Ringo Starr, 75.

Happy Birthday: Take a reserved approach to situations that can influence your reputation or status. Showing too much emotion will work against you, but being secretive and acting quietly and intuitively will help you skillfully flush out any problematic situations you face. Show control and patience when handling others, and you will come out on top. Your numbers are 4, 10, 21, 26, 29, 34, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Look over contracts, financial papers or medical concerns. Knowing what you are up against will make it easier for you to make decisions about what you can and cannot do. A move will be hectic but rewarding. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Short trips will give you insight into future trends and how you can use your skills and talents wisely to get ahead. Don't let anyone control your life. Responsibilities will weigh you down. Do your best to get in shape. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Pick and choose wisely. Don't feel obligated to fight someone else's battles. Make changes that will improve your personal and domestic life. A professional or personal move will bring new opportunities and help you leave the past behind. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't be afraid to be different. Your unique approach to work, life and dealing with others will bring good results. A disciplined attitude will help where self-improvement projects are concerned. Start a fitness and nutritional regimen. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take action and make things happen. Call people who can assist you or who owe you favors, and initiate the changes that need to be made to get what you want. Make personal as well as professional improvements. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): An investment that appears too good to be true should be considered carefully. Practical applications will bring the best results. Use discipline when dealing with the temptation to overspend. Add to your assets wisely by choosing long-term proposals. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You can make positive changes that will alter your relationships if you are open about what you want to see unfold. Don't let anyone bully you or lead you astray. Choose what you want, not what makes others happy. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Avoid anyone using manipulative tactics to play on your emotions or make you feel guilty. If you need a change, make it happen. Altering the way you live will give you the boost you need to head in a suitable direction. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Travel, adventure and all sorts of exciting changes will make your day. Get together with people who enjoy the same things you do. Making a point to do something special with your loved one will lead to personal opportunities. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Talks may not resolve matters, but they will help you get a better view of what is going on and who you should avoid. Don't get upset or show your feelings. Size up your situation and make your move secretively. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll get a lead on an interesting position. A partnership will sprout if you share your ideas with someone who is heading in the same direction as you. Love is on the rise, and romance will improve your future prospects. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't let mixed emotions throw you off course. An argument will be a waste of time. New connections can be made if you join a political or fundraising organization. Your empathetic nature will attract people who feel the same way as you. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, adaptable and creative. You are willful and courageous.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8	5	3				2	
9				6		5		3
	2							8
			7		5			1
	1						7	
7			4		9			
4							3	
2		7		9				6
	5				8	9	4	

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	1	5	8	9	3	4	7	6
4	7	8	6	1	5	2	3	9
3	9	6	4	2	7	5	8	1
1	5	9	3	4	2	8	6	7
6	3	7	5	8	1	9	4	2
8	4	2	9	7	6	3	1	5
7	8	1	2	5	4	6	9	3
5	6	4	7	3	9	1	2	8
9	2	3	1	6	8	7	5	4

Difficulty Level ★ 7/6

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DAVID LETTERMAN'S RETIREMENT — MAY 20, 2015 Sol.: 10 letters

N	O	T	N	A	F	Y	S	R	O	B	E	R	T	S
O	W	R	E	F	F	A	H	S	T	D	C	R	K	A
S	V	I	B	O	I	Ⓟ	O	T	S	L	E	C	F	N
R	E	S	L	I	B	Ⓐ	W	U	O	B	I	O	R	D
E	D	C	E	L	L	Ⓤ	L	O	L	R	L	O	E	L
D	D	O	P	N	L	Ⓛ	N	O	T	E	O	K	T	E
N	E	L	O	P	I	E	C	T	Y	P	T	D	L	R
E	R	L	P	V	Y	A	E	N	R	J	T	L	A	H
H	A	I	A	T	E	P	G	A	N	L	E	A	K	A
S	K	N	A	H	D	I	H	L	K	H	N	R	W	R
E	K	S	I	I	F	T	I	A	C	U	R	A	R	R
N	L	S	P	G	N	O	S	I	I	M	U	B	I	Y
O	A	U	S	W	E	N	M	O	E	O	B	R	T	A
B	T	T	Y	A	R	R	U	M	H	R	O	A	E	L
S	I	N	N	I	G	C	M	A	D	A	B	B	R	P

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Adam, Alan, Anton, Barbara, Biff, Bill, Bob, Bones, Burnett, Clooney, Colbert, Collins, Cook, Dorothy, Ed Sullivan, Fig, Foley, Gaines, Hanks, Harry, Heick, Henderson, Host, Humor, Jerry, Kalter, McGinnis, Michelle, Murray, News, Oprah, Paul, Play, Pope, Regina, Roberts, Sandler, Shaffer, Show, Song, Stupid Pet Tricks, Talk, Vedder, Will Lee, Writer

Yesterday's Answer: Outdoor

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All-Williams matchup headlines action at Wimbledon

AP

Serena Williams of the United States returns to Heather Watson of Britain during their singles match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Friday July 3, 2015. Williams won, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5.

LONDON (AP)—One five-time Wimbledon champion is guaranteed to reach the quarterfinals. Another is assured of elimination.

That's what will happen Monday when Serena Williams plays older sister Venus Williams for the sixth time at the grass-court Grand Slam in southwest London.

"They've been unbelievable for the sport. I've said that many times," said Roger Federer, a seven-time Wimbledon champion who will also be playing on Manic Monday. "Their head-to-heads, I don't know how much that has to do with it. I think it's more their individual play."

Individually and together, the Williams sisters have become two of the greatest champions at the All England Club. They have each won five singles titles, and have teamed up to win five more in doubles.

Against each other on the grass at Wimbledon, Serena leads 3-2, with all three of her wins coming in finals. Venus won one final, and also won a semifinal match against her younger sibling in 2000—the first time they met on court at the tournament.

Although Serena is still at the top of her game and going for a true Grand Slam this season, Venus has been struggling for the past few years and was diagnosed with an energy-sapping autoimmune disease in 2011, three years after her last Wimbledon title. It was the previous year, in 2010, when she last reached the quarterfinals at Wimbledon.

But this year, Venus has been nearing her past high standards, winning all three of her matches in straight sets.

"She's playing so well," Serena said. "I'm practicing next to her every day and I'm in awe of how she's doing. It's a little frustrating because I know I have to play her."

The Williams matchup is just one of the 16 fourth-round matches on the schedule for Monday—eight for the men and eight for the women.

Here are some things to know about Monday's matches:

Roger's record

Roger Federer is the only current player with more Wimbledon singles titles than a Williams, and the seven-time champion is one away from a record-setting eighth.

Federer has had a relatively straightforward first week, winning his first two matches in straight sets and his third in four. His next opponent is 20th-seeded Roberto Bautista Agut, a Spaniard who is playing at Wimbledon for the third time and has never reached the fourth round.

But for Federer, the pursuit of No. 8 and breaking the tie with Pete Sampras and 1880s player Willie Renshaw doesn't seem to be the only thing spurring him on.

"This is more something like you talk about for a couple weeks, it's gone again, then you have to wait a year if you don't do it," Federer said. "I just take Wimbledon as such, what a huge tournament it is, what an opportunity it is."

Semifinal posibility

Maria Sharapova and Victoria Azarenka, the other two Grand Slam champions in the fourth round, have been two of the most consistent players at this year's tournament, and another pair of wins for each would set up a semifinal meeting on Thursday.

Sharapova, the 2004 Wimbledon champion, has lost only 15 games through three rounds and will next face Zarina Diyas of Kazakhstan. Azarenka, a two-time Australian Open champion, has lost 17 games and will next meet 30th-seeded Belinda Bencic of Switzerland.

Sharapova has played Diyas once before, beating her 6-1, 6-1 in the third round at this year's Australian Open.

"You can't underestimate anyone's level," Sharapova said.

Go Go Djoko

Novak Djokovic missed out on a chance to make a run for a true Grand Slam when he lost to Stan Wawrinka in the French Open final. But the top-seeded Serb can still defend his title at Wimbledon, a victory that would give him a third championship at the All England Club.

"I try to put myself only in the present moment, not fight against the thoughts and the pressure and the excitement," Djokovic said, referring to his past experiences at the grass-court major.

Djokovic's next opponent will be Kevin Anderson, a 14th-seeded South African who has never been past the fourth round at a Grand Slam tournament.

Major mission

Four women who have come close but are still looking for their first major title will also be on court Monday: Caroline Wozniacki, Agnieszka Radwanska, Lucie Safarova and Jelena Jankovic.

All four of them lost to 20-time major champion Serena Williams in Grand Slam finals.

Wozniacki lost to Serena in the 2014 U.S. Open final, Radwanska was beaten in the 2012 Wimbledon final, Jankovic in the 2008 U.S. Open final and Safarova in this year's French Open final.

Wozniacki also reached the U.S. Open final in 2009, losing to Kim Clijsters.

Kings, Koufos agree to 4-year, $33 million deal

SACRAMENTO (AP)—A day after locking up a pair of guards, the Sacramento Kings invested in their front court.

Center Kosta Koufos agreed to a $33 million, four-year contract with the Kings on Saturday night, a person with knowledge of the deal said.

The person, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because contracts can't be completed until the NBA's moratorium on free agency ends Thursday, said the fourth year is a player option.

ESPN first reported the agreement.

Koufos played behind Marc Gasol and Zach Randolph in Memphis the past two seasons. In Sacramento, the 7-footer is another big man for a front court that includes All-Star center DeMarcus Cousins and sixth overall draft pick Willie Cauley-Stein.

Koufos has career averages of 5.4 points and 4.7 rebounds in seven seasons. He also has played for Utah, Minnesota and Denver—where he spent parts of three years under current Kings coach George Karl.

The deal is a sizeable commitment considering Koufos most likely will back up Cousins. But it's the price the Kings felt they had to pay in a market where the most coveted free agents go to teams with recent success.

Sacramento has missed the playoffs nine straight seasons and is still trying to come together under Karl, who took over at the All-Star break after Tyrone Corbin and Michael Malone were fired a few months apart. There also have been repeated reports of tension between Karl and Cousins—and Karl and owner Vivek Ranadive.

New basketball operations leader Vlade Divac has been left repairing relationships and the roster, with the latter beginning to take shape the past two days.

The Kings reached agreements with point guard Rajon Rondo and shooting guard Marco Belinelli on Friday. Rondo's deal is for one year and about $10 million, and Belinelli's contract is for $19 million and three years.

Those agreements followed a head-scratching start to the week for Divac and the Kings. They opened free agency by trading last year's first-round pick, Nik Stauskas, along with Jason Thompson and Carl Landry to Philadelphia to clear more than $16 million in salary cap space next season.

The Kings reportedly received the rights to two international players and a second-round pick in the deal, but also gave up a first-round pick in 2018 that is top-10 protected plus the right to swap first-round draft choices in 2016 and 2017.

In Los Angeles, the Lakers say they plan to sign guard Lou Williams, last season's Sixth Man of the Year, and forward Brandon Bass.

Williams averaged a career-high 15.5 points and helped Toronto win a franchise-record 49 games in 2014-15, his lone season there. The Lakers have upgraded their guard rotation by adding Williams after drafting Ohio State's D'Angelo Russell with the No. 2 pick.

Bass averaged 10.6 points while playing all 82 games for Boston.

Deals can't be signed until Thursday, but general manager Mitch Kupchak says Sunday in a release that the Lakers are negotiating with both players and intend to sign them once the free agent moratorium ends.

In New Orleans, people familiar with the negotiations say the New Orleans Pelicans and forward Dante Cunningham have agreed on a three-year contract extension worth about $9 million.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity on Saturday because the free-agent contract, which cannot officially be signed until July 9, has not been announced.

The Pelicans first signed the 6-foot-8 Cunningham as a free agent last December. He played in 66 regular season games, starting 27, and averaged 5.2 points and 3.9 rebounds in 25 minutes.

The 28-year-old Cunningham was relied upon mostly for his defense. His contract includes a third-year player option. His return gives the Pelicans nearly all of their regulars back for next season except guard Norris Cole, who remains a restricted free agent.

In Orlando, a person with knowledge of the details says Tobias Harris has agreed to sign a new contract to remain with the Orlando Magic.

The person says the deal for Harris—a restricted free agent—is for four years and $64 million. The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because contract can't be officially signed until next week.

The 22-year-old forward completed his fourth NBA season and second full year in Orlando after coming over in a trade with Milwaukee in 2013. He averaged a career-high 17.1 points last season, while also shooting a career-best 36 percent from the 3-point line.

The move keeps intact a young Magic team that features eight players under age 25.

Angels pummel Rangers for 3-game sweep

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Albert Pujols hit his AL-leading 25th home run, Kole Calhoun homered and drove in four runs and Los Angeles finished a dominant three-game sweep of Texas, 12-6.

Mike Trout celebrated his third straight starting nod for the AL All-Stars with one of seven run-scoring singles or sacrifice flies for the Angels in the first three innings.

Calhoun's three-run shot, his ninth, gave Los Angeles a 12-1 lead in the fifth, and a 25-1 advantage combined in the first five innings of the three games.

C.J. Wilson (7-6) allowed three runs in six innings, and the Los Angeles lefthander beat his former team for the second time in 10 starts.

Texas righty Colby Lewis (8-4) allowed 12 hits and 10 earned runs in four innings.

Brewers 6, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, rookie Taylor Jungmann allowed four hits in eight innings and the Milwaukee Brewers extended their winning streak to eight games with a 6-1 victory over the Cincinnati Reds on Sunday.

Gerardo Parra and Adam Lind hit seventh-inning home runs for the Brewers, who finished off their second undefeated road trip of at least seven games in franchise history.

Royals 3, Twins 2

In Kansas City, Eric Hosmer drove in Lorenzo Cain with nobody out in the ninth inning, helping Kansas City beat Minnesota for a split of their four-game series.

Cain drew a leadoff walk against Twins reliever Blaine Boyer (2-4) to start the ninth after Ervin Santana had nearly shut Kansas City down in his return from a drug suspension.

Greg Holland (2-0) earned the win with a scoreless ninth inning.

Blue Jays 10, Tigers 5

In Detroit, Justin Verlander remained winless in four starts since his return from the disabled list, allowing seven runs as his ERA ballooned to 6.75 ERA during Detroit's loss to Toronto.

Jose Bautista and Justin Smoak homered in a six-run fifth inning against the 2011 AL Cy Young Award winner and MVP.

Verlander (0-4) gave up seven hits and two walks in five innings, striking out five. He needed 94 pitches to get 15 outs.

Rays 8, Yankees 1

In New York, Erasmo Ramirez pitched out of early trouble in his latest effective outing against New York, and Tampa Bay took advantage of some shoddy defense to snap its longest losing streak of the season at seven games.

James Loney and Logan Forsythe each had a two-run single for the Rays, who had dropped 11 of 13 while falling out of first place in the AL East. They salvaged the finale of a frustrating series at Yankee Stadium that included walk-off defeats in the first two games.

Pirates 5, Indians 3

In Pittsburgh, Gerrit Cole overcame a rocky start for his major league-best 12th win and Andrew McCutchen's two-run double capped a five-run fifth inning as Pittsburgh rallied past Cleveland.

Cole (12-3) set down his last 16 batters after the Indians scored twice in the second inning and once in the third to take a 3-0 lead.

Red Sox 5, Astros 4

In Boston, Hanley Ramirez hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning and Boston beat Houston.

Ryan Hanigan and Pablo Sandoval each had three hits as the Red Sox won their third straight series. They hadn't done that since taking their first three of the season.

Rookie Carlos Correa and Evan Gattis hit consecutive homers over the Green Monster for AL West-leading Houston.

Orioles 9, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Jonathan Schoop homered in his first at-bat since coming off the disabled list and Miguel Gonzalez threw six solid innings as Baltimore routed the White Sox.

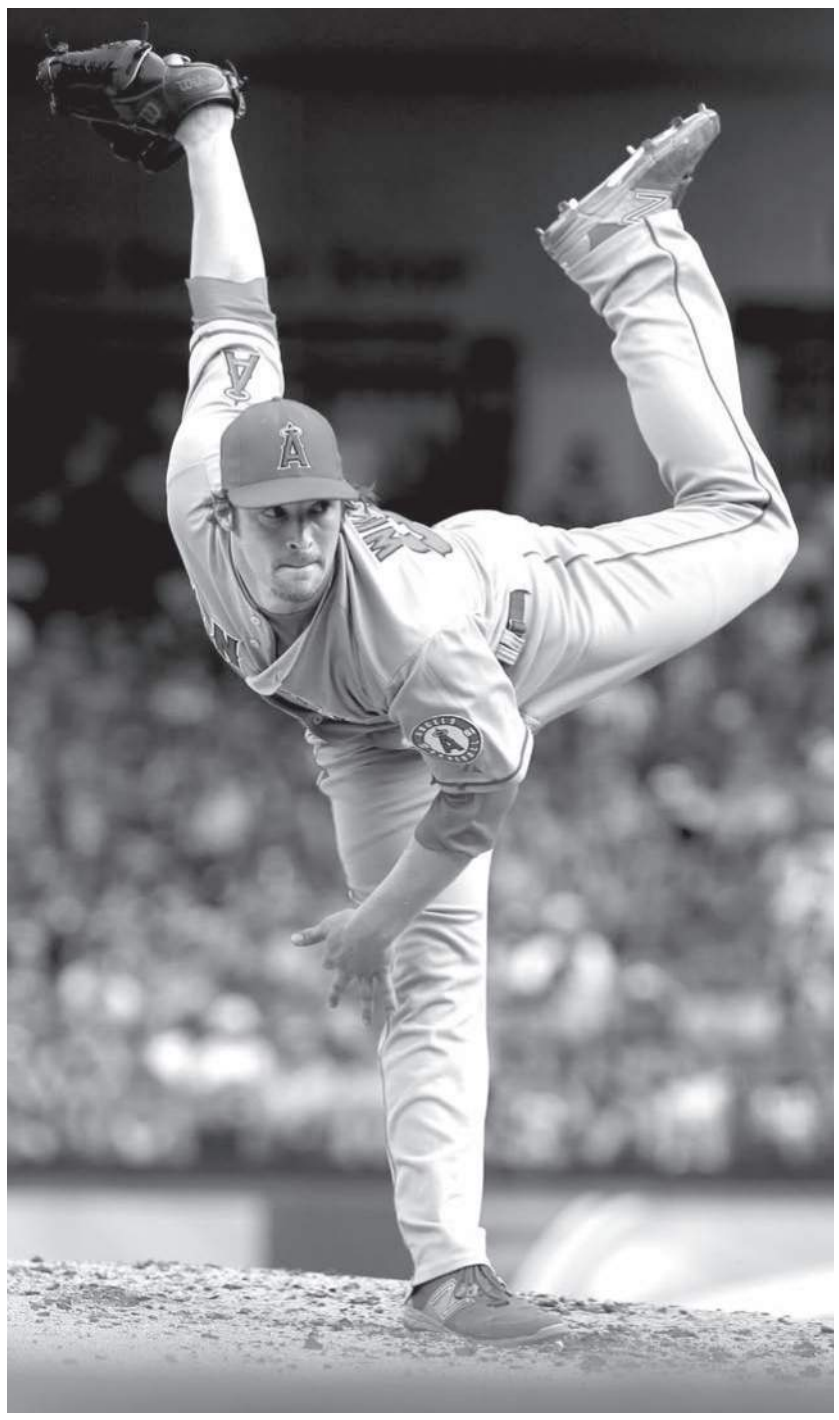
Adam Jones had two doubles and Steve Pearce had three hits as the Orioles snapped a three-game losing streak. Baltimore had scored six runs in their previous four games combined.

Mariners 2, Athletics 1

In Oakland, rookie Mike Montgomery put together another fine start, pitching Seattle past Oakland.

Coming off two straight shutouts, Montgomery (4-2) gave up one run and six hits in 5 2/3 innings. He walked one and struck out two.

Montgomery was trying to join Randy Johnson as the only players in franchise history to pitch three consecutive shutouts. Sam Fuld homered in the third for the A's.



Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher C.J. Wilson watches his pitch during the third inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers in Arlington, Texas, Sunday, July 5, 2015.

Phillies 4, Braves 0, 10 innings

In Atlanta, Ryan Howard hit a tie-breaking sacrifice fly with the bases loaded in the 10th inning, and Philadelphia beat Atlanta to stop a six-game losing streak.

Odubel Herrera singled off Nick Masset (2-2) leading off the 10th and broke for second when Cesar Hernandez lined a single into left field for his third hit.

Cardinals 3, Padres 1

In St. Louis, Rookie outfielder Tommy Pham homered, doubled and drove in three runs, leading Lance Lynn and St. Louis over San Diego.

The Cardinals improved to a majors-best 31-11 at home with their second successive win following a four-game losing streak. San Diego has lost five of seven.

Mets 8, Dodgers 0

In Los Angeles, Steven Matz scattered two hits over six scoreless innings, Wilmer Flores went 4 for 5, and the Mets beat Los Angeles to take two out of three from the NL West leaders.

Matz (2-0) struck out eight and walked two in strongly following up a victory in his major league debut a week ago against Cincinnati. The left-hander had a run-scoring groundout in a three-run fourth that made it 4-0, giving him five RBI in two games.

Cubs 2, Marlins 0

In Chicago, Kyle Hendricks threw 7 1/3 strong innings, Chris Coghlan added an RBI single and Chicago beat Miami.

Hendricks (4-4) allowed five hits, walked one and struck out six.

Marlins starter Mat Latos (3-6) pitched well in the loss. He allowed one run, one hit and two walks in seven innings.

Rockies 6, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Troy Tulowitzki had a three-run homer to extend his hitting streak to 18 games, Jorge De La Rosa pitched six effective innings and Colorado avoided a four-game sweep.

Tulowitzki homered in the Rockies' four-run first inning against Rubby De La Rosa (6-4) and Carlos Gonzalez added a two-run homer off the right-hander in the sixth.

Nationals 3, Giants 1

In Washington, Wilson Ramos snapped a tie with a sixth-inning homer, Jordan Zimmermann pitched seven solid innings and Washington completed a three-game sweep of struggling San Francisco.

Ramos added an RBI single in the eighth and Bryce Harper, voted a starter on the National League All-Star team, had a double and single.

SIDEBAR

4 Royals elected to start All-Star Game; Reds' Frazier, too

NEW YORK (AP)—The All-Star Game will have a Kansas City flavor, just not as much as it appeared last month.

And the hometown Reds can celebrate a starter, too, despite Cincinnati's sorry season.

Houston second baseman Jose Altuve passed Kansas City's Omar Infante in the final days of voting, leaving four Royals as starters for the All-Star Game.

Cincinnati's Todd Frazier leapfrogged St. Louis third baseman Matt Carpenter and will be in the NL starting lineup for the July 14 game at Great American Ball Park, according to final results announced Sunday.

AL champion Kansas City will be represented in the starting lineup by outfielders Lorenzo Cain and Alex Gordon, catcher Salvador Perez and shortstop Alcides Escobar. Four players ties the AL record for fan-elected starters, achieved nine times previously.

Kansas City had not had any starters since outfielder Jermaine Dye in 2000.

"Winning brings attention, and that's what we've been doing," Gordon said. "I think we play with a lot of energy, a lot of fun. People have noticed it."

Eight Royals were on track to start in vote totals announced June 15, but first baseman Eric Hosmer, third baseman Mike Moustakas and designated hitter Kendrys Morales also were overtaken.

"We're going to have a blast," said Royals manager Ned Yost, manager of the AL team. "The All-Star Game is an experience you never forget, and to do it with so many of our teammates there is really special."

Yost already has made one decision: Cain will play right field and Mike Trout of the Los Angeles Angels will play center. Trout will make his fourth straight All-Star appearance.

Seattle's Nelson Cruz, suspended for the final 50 games of the 2013 season for violating baseball's drug agreement, was elected to start for the second straight year. In the closest vote at any position, Cruz's 10.6 million votes edged Morales' 10.32 million at designated hitter.

Toronto's Josh Donaldson will start at third for the second straight year after receiving a record vote total of 14.09 million, topping Josh Hamilton's 11.07 million in 2012. Trout was second this year with 14 million.

Washington outfielder Bryce Harper set a mark for NL players at 13.86 million, topping the previous record of 7.62 million set three years ago by San Francisco catcher Buster Posey, who was elected to start again this year.

MLB said 620 million votes were cast, breaking the old mark of 391 million in 2012. The New York Yankees do not have any fan-elected starters for the first time since 2001.

At least two elected starters will miss the game because of injuries: Miami outfielder Giancarlo Stanton broke a hand on June 26, and Detroit first baseman Miguel Cabrera hurt his left calf Friday. In addition, the Cardinals' Matt Holliday, who finished third among NL outfielders behind Harper and Stanton, has been sidelined since straining a quadriceps on June 8 and is uncertain when he will return.

"I'm getting there," Holliday said. "I've got a few more hurdles to clear with my running, but I feel like I'm getting pretty close."

Each fan could cast up to 35 ballots in the first year of all-online voting. Pitchers and reserves will be announced Monday.

NL starters include Arizona first baseman Paul Goldschmidt, Miami second baseman Dee Gordon and St. Louis shortstop Jhonny Peralta, who also was suspended 50 games following MLB's investigation of the Biogenesis of America clinic.

Dee Gordon remembered attending All-Star Games when his dad, pitcher Tom Gordon, made the roster.

"In 2004 I got kicked off the field for trying to rob Home Run Derby homers," he said.

Chinese-Taipei halfway through mission

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Reaching the World Series is just halfway of Team Chinese-Taipei's true mission: Win the whole thing.

Chinese-Taipei's Juniors team will be defending its title in Taylor, Michigan, while the Big leaguers hope to bounce backafter failing in the International Pool play when they return to Easley, South Carolina.

Both Chinese-Taipei squads, represented by Tai Chung City, went undefeated to rule their respective divisions in the recently concluded 2015 Asia Pacific Middle East Junior, Senior, and Big League Regional Baseball Tournament on Saipan.

Chinese-Taipei's Juniors team won all of its five matches with three of its victories were shutouts against the Philippines, tournament hosts CNMI, and Guam.

"We're going back home satisfied after again reaching the Junior League World Series. Our hard work and preparation paid off," said Junior League manager Lan Wen Chueh, who oversees the military-like training of the team with coaches Ko Liang Chung and Lin Yung Sen.

JON PEREZ
Lee Meng Che's steady pitching is one of the reasons why Chinese-Taipei is returning to the Junior League World Series in Taylor, Michigan.

So dominating was the defending ASPAC champ that it tallied a total of 123 runs, while holding its opponents to seven. Hong Kong scored three times against Chinese-Taipei, while Australia had four runs.

Lan said that they plan to play against teams from other counties as part of their continuous preparation of defending their Junior League World Series crown.

"There's an 80 percent chance of us defending the World Series title. We're going back to basic training. The players must be reminded on the basics of playing baseball," added Lan, who sees the Latin Americans as the big threat to their title defense.

Chinese-Taipei, which swept the International Pool, defeated U.S. representatives Oil Belt Little League of Corpus Christi, Texas in last year's finals, 9-1.

Meanwhile, Big League manager Huang Wu Hsiung said that they would work doubly hard in trying to scout and get information from their opponents.

"You can't underestimate the other teams. The Big league is more competitive since the players are in the 18 years old age bracket. The competition level is higher," said Huang through an interpreter.

Chinese-Taipei was also undefeated after six games in the Big League division of the ASPAC and they enjoyed an average winning margin of 11 runs after blanking the CNMI and Guam in the first round.

The Junior League World Series is set from Aug. 16 to 23 at the Heritage Park in Taylor, Michigan, while the Big League World Series is scheduled from July 28 to Aug. 4 at the Easley Recreation Complex in Easley, South Carolina.

Mafia, Voyagers complete Bud Light Cup q'finalists

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Route 33 Mafia and Smoke Pub Voyagers defeated their respective opponents to complete the quarterfinalists in the Bud Light Cup.

Route 33 downed the Naked Fish Darrty, 9-3, while the Voyagers edged the Sand Juvy Predators, 9-7, in a pair of race-to-nine matches last week.

The Mafia then faced the Voyagers in one of the four quarterfinal games yesterday, but results were unavailable at press time. The Sand Juvy 101 Proofers battled sister team Snipers, while the Sakude clashed with the Jokers Warriors, and the Huntlaw played against the No Fear, in other pairings.

The winner of the Mafia-Voyagers game will take on the victor of the 101 Proofers-Snipers matchup. The winning team in the Sakude-Warriors faceoff will collide with the conqueror of the Huntlaw-No Fear bout.

The Mafia, which topped the regular season, is among the favorites to win and could move closer to clinching the Bud Light Cup A division crown if it wins in the semifinals on July 13. The finals is set on July 20.

Meanwhile, Jokers-backed teams were triumphant in four other divisions in the Bud Light Cup with the Destroyers claiming the Masters crown and the Darty Flights topping the Chichirika C class.

The Spartans, Atarashi Boyz, and Latte Sparts ruled the Kingfisher, Tuesday B, and Thursday Fanihi B divisions, respectively. The Sand Juvy Vicious Darties won the Ladies crown, while the Jonny's Kyodai was the Thursday Flame Tree B champion.

Awarding for the regular season and Bud Light Cup will be on Aug. 16 at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret, starting at 10:30am

Micronesian Basketball Tournament is on

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2015 Micronesian Basketball Tournament U15 will push through as planned, according to Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands' Elias Rangamar.

The regional competition (western division) for players in the 15-and-under age group will run from July 12 to 18 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium with three teams from the CNMI battling the representatives of Palau and Guam.

The Marianas Dolphins will open the hostilities in the weeklong tournament this Sunday as they collide against Palau in the 4pm game. In the second match in the opening day at 6pm, Guam will take on Marianas Alu'u, while the CNMI's third team—Marianas Tataga—will have its debut on July 13 against Palau at 4pm.

There will be two games per playing day in the youth tournament and after the round-robin play only the Top 4 teams will advance to the playoffs. The top finisher will then challenge the No. 4 squad for the first finals ticket, while the No. 2 and 3 teams will duel for the other championship berth. Winners of the Final Four pairings will face off in the finals on July 18 at 6pm after the 4pm consolation match.

Meanwhile, the Marianas Dolphins, Alu'u, and Tataga are seeing action in the 2015 Liberation Day Tournament in preparation for the MBT.

The Marianas Dolphins went 2-0 in the junior division of the Lib Day caging before games last Saturday and Sunday were postponed due to Tropical Storm Chan-Hom.

The Dolphins first crushed Alu'u, 73-40, last Thursday before notching another lopsided victory against Tataga last Friday, 85-37.

Four Dolphins players scored in twin digits in their 45-point win over Tataga. Chris Arceo led the way with his 12 points, while Dalton Dancoe chipped in 11, and Jude Tengco and Aaron Ogumoro contributed 10 apiece.

The Dolphins built a baker's dozen advantage at the break, 20-7, and continued to pull away in the second half behind its balance offense.

Against Alu'u, Dancoe and Tengco also registered double figures, knocking in 15 points apiece. Dancoe anchored the Dolphins' offense in the first half, nailing 11 of his total points to give his team a comfortable 31-17 advantage. Tengco then took over in the second half where he poured all his points en route to the Dolphins' easy victory.

LLOYD

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Everything else comes second. But I wouldn't want to do it any other way."

When it was over, Lloyd collapsed to her knees and pumped her fists. Forward Abby Wambach bear-hugged teary-eyed coach Jill Ellis, lifting her off the ground.

Lloyd, awarded the Golden Ball as player of the tournament, scored twice in a span of about 135 seconds as the U.S. led 2-0 by the fifth minute.

Lauren Holiday boosted the lead in the 14th, and two minutes later Lloyd made it 4-0 with an audacious 54-yard, right-footed shot from midfield that sailed over goalkeeper Ayumi Kaihori.

Japan closed on Yuki Ogimi's goal in the 27th and an own goal by Julie Johnston on an errant header in the 52nd. Tobin Heath scored two minutes later, the third goal off a restart for the Americans.

While winning the last three Olympic gold medals, the U.S. had struggled in the World Cup since taking the title at the inaugural tournament in 1991 and then again at the Rose Bowl eight years later.

Christie Rampone, the only holdover from the 1999 team, lifted the trophy with Wambach, the 35-year-old former FIFA Player of the Year who has said this will be her last World Cup. Wambach was among the most vocal opponents of FIFA's decision to play the tournament on artificial turf.

With FIFA President Sepp Blatter staying away from Canada during a U.S. criminal investigation of soccer corruption, the trophy was presented by FIFA Senior Vice President Issa Hayatou of Cameroon, the head of African soccer's governing body.

Hope Solo won her second straight Golden Glove as top goalkeeper of the tournament. She played despite critics who urged the U.S. Soccer Federation to drop her after she initially faced two misdemeanor counts of domestic violence from a June 2014 altercation at her half-sister's house, charges that were dismissed earlier this year.

Solo, who hasn't spoken to the media for most of the tournament, proclaimed simply: "We did it! Awesome!"

The title, which adds a coveted third star to the American uniform, also vindicated the USSF for its decision in April 2014 to fire coach Tom Sermanni, who had replaced Pia Sundhage the previous year, and replace him with Ellis, the British-born American who had been an assistant on the coaching staff.

PNG

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50m backstroke and clocked in at 32.47 seconds to eclipse his old PBT of 33.80 seconds. Sugie placed No. 14 overall in the four heats and finished ahead of Guam's Tanner Poppe (33.39) and Tommy Imazu (33.80).

Ryan Pini of host PNG registered the fastest qualifying time with his 26.22 seconds and eventually won the gold medal (finals time was not posted at the Pacific Games website) in the 50m backstroke. Tahiti's Teiki Dupont recorded the second best qualifying time at 26.81 and was followed by New Caledonia's Julian-Pierre Goyetche (27.10 seconds).

In the 100m freestyle preliminary, Chentsova submitted 1:04.31 to surpass her previous PBT of 1:04.53. Chentsova was on Heat 1 along with Fiji's Matelita Buadromo, Tonga's Charissa Sofia Panuve, American Samoa's Tilali Rose Leslie Scanlan, Guam's Pilar Shimizu, and PNG's Savannah Raka Tkatchenko and finished fourth in her group and ninth overall, beating eight other swimmers.

Fiji had a 1-2 finish in the preliminary races with Caroline Puamau ranked first with her 59.33 seconds and Buadromo second at 59.36 seconds. New Caledonia's Emma Terebo logged the third best qualifying time in the 100m freestyle after posting 1:00.50.

Angel De Jesus, the third CNMI swimmer in the Games, also raced in the 100m freestyle preliminaries and completed the event in 1:07.51, just over a minute slower than her PBT of 1:06.33. She was on Heat 2 and swam against Fiji's Debra Daniel (1:07.28), Marshall Islands' Ann-Marie Hepler (1:04.13), PNG's Anna Mopio Jane (1:00.87), Guam's Amanda Poppe (1:09.22), and Puamau.

Meanwhile, Sugie had his second event in Day 1 of the swimming competition, timing in at 2:16.19 in the 200m freestyle race. New Caledonia's Jeremie Dufourmantelle ruled the qualifying with his 1:52.53, while PNG's Samuel Mai Seghers (1:54.58) and Tahiti's Rahiti De Vos (1:55.15) logged the second and third best qualifying times.

Besides the CNMI swim team, the Commonwealth's sailing and va'a (canoe) squads were also scheduled to compete yesterday, but results of their races were unavailable at press time.

In other results, host PNG stayed on top of the medal standings. As of 5pm yesterday, PNG has collared eight medals, six of them are golds and one silver and bronze. Fiji is ranked second with withs 4-1-5 gold-silver-bronze tally, while Australia (2-4-0) is at third ahead of New Caledonia (2-0-2). Samoa (1-3-0) and the Federated States of Micronesia (1-1-0) are the two other countries who have gained at least one gold, while the Solomon Islands (0-2-4), Nauru (0-2-1), Tahiti (0-2-0), Guam (0-0-1), New Zealand (0-0-1), and Palau (0-0-1) also made it to the medal leaderboard.

MANGLONA

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Organizers then rushed Cepeda to the Commonwealth Health Center to undergo further tests. *Saipan Tribune* tried to check on Cepeda's condition but no updates have been released at press time.

Back in the Manglona-Santos bout, both fighters showed their aggressiveness and sized up each other in the middle of the octagon as they patiently waited who will take the first move.

Santos saw an opening and took down Manglona, but the former failed to make the full mount, as the latter managed to wiggle out of trouble and turned things around.

Manglona got on top of Santos and when he had the chance, sneaked in his arms to lock on his opponent's neck. He completed the chokehold and his foe had no choice but to tap out.

Manglona, who won the bantamweight and featherweight gold medals in last year's Art of War IX, used a rear-naked-choke to force Santos to tap out with 3:59 left in the first round.

Manglona won his third straight match after losing to former flyweight champion Josh "Chaos" Duenas in Trench Warz 17: Night of Champions last December, while Santos suffered his first loss after three fights.

The flyweight belt was vacated after Duenas (4-5) was stripped of his crown for failure to make the weight in his title defense bout late last year.

2015 ASPAC Junior, Senior, and Big League Regional Baseball Tournament

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

CNMI Senior League catcher Virgil Secharmidal runs toward home plate in their opening game against Guam in the 2015 Asia Pacific Middle East Junior, Senior, and Big League Regional Baseball Tournament at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Team Philippines' Angelo Tantuico waits for the throw of Hong Kong pitcher Alex Chan.

Hong Kong's Thomas Kim practices his pitching one day before the opening of the tournament.

Guam first baseman Curtis Bukikosa, left, moves forward to anticipate a throw by pitcher Ross Perez, while the CNMI's Noel Cabrera prepares to run to second base.

Guam Junior League manager Vic Fernandez talks to his players after their team practice.

Umpires meet near first base to discuss a call.

Guam team officials and Hong Kong's Bob Drapeau assist a Guam Senior League team member who had cramps.

CNMI closer Craig Aguon, center, warms up after Senior League manager Greg Camacho, left, called him to replace Nathan Camacho, right, in their game against the Philippines.

The CNMI's Jose Lizama Jr., right, blocks home plate to prevent Guam's Jude Santos from diving safely.

Philippine Honorary Consul Eli Arago, second row fifth right, joins spectators at the bleachers

All-Williams matchup headlines action at Wimbledon

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Lloyd leads US to World Cup title

AP

The United States Women's National Team celebrates with the trophy after besting Japan, 5-2 in the FIFA Women's World Cup soccer championship in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Sunday, July 5, 2015.

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP SPORTS WRITER

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Carli Lloyd lives for the big moment. She had her biggest on Sunday night and gave the United States its record third Women's World Cup title.

Lloyd scored three times as the U.S. jumped to a four-goal lead in the first 16 minutes, and the Americans overwhelmed defending champion Japan 5-2 for the team's first World Cup championship since 1999.

A sellout crowd of 53,341 that included U.S. Vice President Joe Biden roared in approval for Lloyd's hat trick, the first in a Women's World Cup final.

"It's been a long journey, my career. I've had a lot of people believe in me, in my corner, from day one," said the midfielder, who turns 33 on July 16. "I've dedicated my whole life to this.

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Manglona is new flyweight champ

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jordan Manglona made sure the 125-pound flyweight belt will remain in the CNMI as the TrenchTech bet defeated High Blood Pressure's Ernie Santos in the lone title match in last Friday's Rites of Passage 18: Warpath at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

The Manglona-Santos bout was the first of two title fights in ROP 18, but the other match between Trench Tech's Ning "The Slicer" Cepeda and Eric "Gatty" Gatmen of Guam Muay Thai for the lightweight crown was declared no contest. The second title bout was nullified after Gatmen accidentally hit Cepeda' testicles with his knee.

Gatmen, while trying to deliver several knees to Cepeda, unintentionally hit his opponent's balls sending the Saipan bet down the canvass. Referee Alverick Alvarez immediately stepped in to stop the fight as Cepeda fell and grimaced in pain. Gatmen was apologetic for the accidental hit as he checked the condition of his opponent.

A fighter who suffered an accidental knee to the groin is given five minutes to recover. The fight will be discontinued if he failed to recover from the pain. The fight doctor was called in to check on Cepeda's condition and she declared that he could no longer continue the fight.

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JON PEREZ

Guam's Ernie Santos, bottom, tries to keep his face away from Jordan Manglona's strikes during their bout for the flyweight title in last Friday's Rites of Passage 18: Warpath at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Sugie, Chentsova set new PBTs in PNG

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Takumi Sugie and Victoria Chentsova earned new personal best times as swimming competition in the XV Pacific Games kicked off yesterday at the Taurama Aquatic Centre and Indoor Sports Complex in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Sugie was on Heat 1 of the qualifying races for the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI swim team members and officials pose for a group photo before leaving Saipan last week to compete in the XV Pacific Games, which is being held in Papua New Guinea.